

Technology gets RM361m

THE Government is allocating RM361mil to boost the information and communications technology (ICT) industry.

It believes ICT will continue to be a catalyst in the implementation of the national economic development plans.

Towards this end, the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is to be accelerated to further boost the ICT industry.

A sum of RM154mil has been allocated to the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), the guardian of the 10-year-old MSC initiative. This will be used by MDeC to provide more comprehensive services.

A portion will also be spent on programmes to enhance the viability of ICT-based small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs.

Cyberjaya, the heart of the MSC, will continue to be developed into a major national ICT hub.

Supporting infrastructure and social amenities will be further provided; this includes international schools, more affordable homes and health clinics.

The expansion of the MSC, including to Malacca and Johor Baru, has attracted new investments and this has contributed to new growth areas in the country, as well as additional white-collar jobs.

Also, a Content Industry Development Fund is to be established, with an initial funding of RM25mil, while the MSC Grant Scheme is allocated RM20mil to finance ICT-based R&D.

Meanwhile, government-owned research and development organisation Mimos Bhd has been allocated RM162mil to begin research on mobile broadband engines, e-Learning applications, and language technology, especially in Bahasa Malaysia.

AT A GLANCE

- **RM154mil for Multimedia Development Corp to fund more services and SME industry development programmes.**
- **RM162mil to Mimos for R&D into mobile broadband engines and e-learning applications.**
- **RM25mil to establish a Content Industry Development Fund to build ICT applications.**
- **RM20mil to the MSC Grant Scheme for ICT-based R&D to produce high-quality products.**

