

Jendela to ease Malaysia's transition to 5G

NST- 30/8/2020 p3.4

KUALA LUMPUR: The government yesterday introduced the National Digital Network (Jendela), a digital infrastructure plan to meet the needs of digital connectivity and to prepare the nation for a gradual transition to 5G technology.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday said the action plan, under the 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025 (12MP), was formulated through laboratory sessions and would pave the way for the provision of comprehensive and high-quality broadband service coverage.

Jendela's first phase, he said, would begin by expanding 4G mobile broadband coverage from

91.8 per cent to 96.9 per cent in populated areas.

Mobile broadband speed would go from 25Mbps to 35Mbps and access to gigabit-speed fixed line broadband would be enabled for 7.5 million premises, he said.

"This will also see the termination of the 3G network in stages until the end of next year to boost 4G network and strengthen the foundation for 5G.

"Phase two, which is the transition to 5G, will be done after strengthening this foundation laid in phase one, in line with 12MP."

He said the people of Sabah would benefit from the implementation of Jendela from this

year to 2022 through the addition of 382 new communication towers and the upgrading of 924 communication transmitters under the Universal Service Provision (UPS) programme.

Another 35 new towers and 1,048 communication transmitters in existing towers would be commercially upgraded by service providers to increase 4G coverage in the state, he said.

"A total of 251,166 premises will get access to fibre optics."

Sarawak would get 636 new communication towers and 977 communication transmitters would be upgraded under UPS, he said.

"Forty-nine new towers and

825 communication transmitters in existing towers will be commercially upgraded and 43,013 premises will get fibre optics."

Muhyiddin said Jendela would provide access to users to evaluate coverage and service quality, as well as enable the planning and construction of digital infrastructure to be facilitated by ministries and agencies involved, including at the state level.

He said this way, comprehensive and high-quality broadband services could be provided to consumers at a faster rate.

"I urge all quarters, including state and local governments and related ministries and agencies,

to continue supporting the government's aspiration in making communication services a public utility to drive the country towards a digital economy.

"Jendela will be closely monitored to ensure it will be implemented well nationwide.

"I believe in the capabilities of the Communications and Multimedia Ministry and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to ensure service providers will implement Jendela as planned, with the strong support and cooperation of state governments, ministries and agencies so that the people can enjoy its benefits."