

# 'We are a small nation with big data ambitions'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Malaysia intends to remain at the forefront of technology by using data to deliver improved services for businesses, boost economic productivity and subsequently enhance its competitiveness.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the commitment to fibre the nation with 5G bandwidth and install data storage capacity following the rolling out of the MyDigital initiative together with the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint was just the beginning.

"We are a small nation with big data ambitions," he said at the launch of the Bersama Malaysia initiative by technology giant Microsoft Corp here yesterday.

Reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic, Muhyiddin said the situation had shown that the most vulnerable segment of the population often lacked access to technologies and was at the greatest risk of being left behind.

"We need and will boost digital literacy across the board through a whole-of-society approach."

He also provided updates on the development of the RM21 billion National Digital Network.

"The plans are progressing smoothly and will provide greater last mile 4G connectivity to remote areas soon.

"Plans to roll out 5G connectivity across all high-density areas by 2023 are also going full-steam ahead with the recent operationalisation of the government-owned special purpose vehicle — Digital Nasional Bhd.

"I am happy to report that all the high-impact touchstones under the MyDigital initiative are being executed as we speak.

"But more needs to be done. And this is where the 'Microsofts' of the world can and should step in."