

**Need To Continue With 1Malaysia Netbook Programme, Says Awang Tengah Bernama
February 16, 2012**

KUCHING, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- The federal government should continue with the 1Malaysia Netbook distribution to eligible groups in Sarawak as it has proven to be very popular among schoolchildren, state Public Utilities Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan said today.

He said the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) was expected to distribute 107,400 units statewide this year from 8,000 last year as part of efforts to increase the broadband penetration.

"This is something very interesting because the schoolchildren and community leaders are really looking forward to this."

Awang Tengah said this after attending a briefing by MCMC chairman Datuk Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi during a courtesy call on him led by Datuk Nazri Abdullah, special officer to the Information, Communications and Culture Minister, at his office in Petra Jaya, here.

He said the state government was also working closely with MCMC, Sacofa Sdn Bhd and other service providers to ensure that half of the 114 telecommunication towers being built at a cost of RM480 million could be completed by mid-year.

Although MCMC's goal to narrow the digital gap, especially in the rural areas, saw only 47.4 per cent broadband penetration so far out of the targeted 50 per cent, he said, it was a great achievement compared to less than 30 per cent two years ago.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2012 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=646183>