

MCMC plans to conclude Huawei 5G assessment this year

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CYBERJAYA, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is planning to make the assessment on Huawei 5G network ready by this year for the government's consideration on whether or not to disallow the Chinese telecoms giant from building its 5G network infrastructure in Malaysia.

MCMC chairman Al-Ishsal Ishak said the ongoing assessment was led by National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA) where MCMC would provide support or clarification required in particular issues.

"No specific timeline was given. This assessment will involve internal assessment, inter-governmental assessment, as well as multiple discussions.

"Although this assessment will involve a lot of work, we definitely look forward to making this assessment ready by this year," he told the media after presenting Network Performance Report here today.

He was commenting on the statement by Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo today that the government was waiting for an official report from the MCMC before deciding on whether to ban Huawei from building its 5G infrastructure in Malaysia, amid growing fears of cyber-espionage among Western countries.

Some Western countries including the United States and Canada have banned Huawei from building its 5G network infrastructure.

Gobind also said that no official deadline had been set for the report to be prepared.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad reportedly said the government would conduct a study before making a decision on Huawei's participation in building 5G infrastructure in Malaysia.

Al-Ishsal said when the assessment came to conclusion, the MCMC would be on the forefront if they were any next steps to be taken.

“As at now, we are not banning Huawei at all, but we will speak with the government to advise them when the final assessment is ready,” he added.

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