

Kenyataan Media

Press Release

For Immediate Release

KAMPUNG 'WIFI' TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS FOR THE NATIONAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE (NBI)

Julau, Sarawak, 15 September 2010 – In efforts to accelerate broadband take-up and bring the benefits of broadband to the people whilst bridge the digital divide between rural and urban communities in Sarawak, the Ministry of Information, Communications and Culture and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has launched the second Kampung WiFi (Kg WiFi) network at Rumah Panjang (RH) Guntol, Nanga Bekiok, Merurun, Julau, Sibu, in Sarawak.

The initiative, in collaboration with Pernec Corporation Bhd implemented through its subsidiary Pernec PayPoint Sdn Bhd, will provide reliable wireless broadband Internet access called '*helo spot*' to the mostly rural long-house communities in Nanga Bekiok.

The '*helo spot*' platform which will give broadband data and Internet access to the population within a 350 meter radius from the site is a combination of advanced ICT hardware and services aimed at giving top notch Internet network coverage at any given area.

Kenyataan Media

Press Release

With the Kg WiFi deployment, complete Internet access as well as required infrastructure and the relevant applications will be offered to the community so as to enable them to enjoy the positive benefits of advanced communications technologies.

The Kg WiFi is one of the initiatives identified under the National Broadband Initiative (NBI) that is expected to help accelerate the national broadband penetration target of reaching 50 per cent household targets by end of 2010.

For Sarawak, implementation of the project will be through the use of the Universal Service Provision (USP) programme and funds, hand-in-hand with the 1Malaysia Netbook programme as NBI initiatives. This will involve 500 village areas in 29 districts in Sarawak and is expected to be implemented by October 2010. For areas that are not covered under the USP programme, MCMC, subject to the approval of the Minister of Information, Communications and Culture, will allocate funds to introduce around 100 units of Kg WiFi centres. Approximately 50 units of Kg WiFi centres will be activated within 2010, and the remainder in 2011.

The initiative in Rumah Panjang (RH) Guntol is the sixth Kampung WiFi projects. Prior to this, the project was implemented in Kampung Gita in Kuching, Kampung Bahagia Jaya in Sibul, in Pagoh, Johor, in Pulau Banggi, Sabah and in Kampung Teriang, Jelebu, Negeri Sembilan.

Kenyataan Media

Press Release

Besides the Kg WiFi facilities, some 14,500 1Malaysia Netbooks will be distributed to eligible Sarawakians in the first phase of the programme, with Julau receiving 1,000 units. The distribution will be at 29 selected areas with 500 notebooks allocated for each area.

Information, Communication and Culture Minister, Datuk Seri Rais Yatim, said it was part of the Government allocation to provide one million computers nationwide.

The target recipients are secondary school and university students from low-income families. He said the Government's provision of 1Malaysia Netbooks, which would be delivered in stages to eligible recipients to ensure that they can take advantage of opportunities brought by the Internet and increase broadband usage throughout the country. This would enable the target penetration rate to be met. The distribution of the netbooks reflects the Government's determination to realise the 1Malaysia concept through wider access to the Internet.

The hope is that recipients of this facility will subscribe to broadband to enable them to access this sophisticated technology. This is important in realising the nation's objective of becoming a high-income and high skilled nation driven by a knowledgeable society.

Kenyataan Media

Press Release

“Through these initiatives we aim for all individuals to regard broadband as a necessity in their daily lives, not only as an unlimited resource to obtain information but also in the conduct of their business and work,” said Dato’ Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim.

[Ends]

Notes to Editor:

1 If your organization wishes to include a quote from Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) in an article or news item, kindly attribute the quote to our organization (MCMC) rather than an officer of the organization, unless a designated spokesperson from MCMC is specified in the Press Release or reply to Press.

About the National Broadband Initiative (NBI)

Malaysia requires broadband as it will contribute significantly to the GDP: A 50 percent penetration of broadband households in 2010 potentially results in a 1 percent rise in GDP and the creation of 135,000 new jobs by the end of 2010.

High Speed Broadband (HSBB) will be implemented in specific areas to spur business and economic growth and Broadband to the General Population (BBGP) shall be deployed elsewhere.

The NBI segments the nation into three zones. Zone 1 comprises of high economic impact areas such as the Klang Valley and Iskandar Development Region in Johor. Zone 2 includes towns and suburban areas. Whilst Zone 3 primarily includes rural areas.

In Zone 1 Telekom Malaysia will offer high-speed broadband (HSBB) access of up to 10 Mbps. Residents in the zone will also have access to competitive broadband solutions provided by other service providers. Four initial areas to be covered by HSBB TM service include Shah Alam, Subang Jaya, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, and Bangsar.

The NBI plan includes the involvement of service providers to offer broadband services in Zone Two. Broadband access in Zone 3 areas will be spearheaded by SKMM using Universal Service

Kenyataan Media

Press Release

Provision (USP) funds. Broadband access in these areas shall also include Basic Telephony Access (via fixed and mobile networks), broadband connected Community Broadband Libraries (CBLs) and Community Broadband Centres (CBCs)

Cellular coverage areas will be expanded through the building of more communications towers financed by the USP fund. This will enable cellular operators to expand their coverage to 97 percent of the population by 2011.

The Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the National Broadband Initiative and High Speed Broadband (HSBB) on March 24, 2010.

About Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

The primary role of MCMC is to implement and promote the Government's national policy objectives for the communications and multimedia sector. MCMC is also charged with overseeing the new regulatory framework for the converging industries of telecommunications, broadcasting and on-line activities, in accordance with the national policy objectives set out in the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (CMA), as well as postal services and digital certifications. The CMA provides that MCMC undertakes a policy implementation role, while policy decision-making is vested with the Minister. The Minister may also give policy directions to the Commission.

For more information visit <http://www.skmm.gov.my>

For media clarification, please contact:

Zeti Marziana Muhamed

Director, Corporate Communications Department

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

Mohamed Rizal Ahmad

Corporate Communications Department

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

Wan Seri Rahayu Wan Mohd Said

Corporate Communications Department

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

Tel: +603 8688 8000

Fax: +603 8688 1007

Email: ccd@cmc.gov.my