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# Selangor sets aside RM15m for ICT efforts

By Izwan Ismail

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**T**HE Selangor Government has tripled its information and communications technology (ICT) budget allocation under the second phase of its IT Strategic Planning (ITSP) roadmap to RM15 million. Its Multimedia Exco Datuk Ch'ng Toh Eng said the move will allow more crucial projects to be implemented such as portal development, setting up of more IT community centres and developing human capital.

According to him, under the ITSP roadmap, the plan is to have one portal that will enable people to access State Government offices and conduct transactions and dealings online. This is being done with the creation of the official Selangor State Government portal ([www.selangor.gov.my](http://www.selangor.gov.my)).

"The portal will help various State agencies to improve their service delivery to people," Ch'ng said.

For the second phase, which covers ICT development from 2006 to 2010, the State Government has identified seven key focus areas for development: building ICT infrastructure, connecting all State agencies, embarking on online services, creating a knowledge-based society, promoting e-business, improving business processes, and closing the digital divide.

"We are now in the process of developing the State's ICT infrastructure. Once we have the infrastructure, we will move towards linking all our offices, private entities and the community together," Ch'ng said.

The move will see all 345 Government offices, including city councils, district offices, land offices, libraries and other Government agencies, linked under the Selangor Broadband Infrastructure, or SelNet, a RM25 million initiative

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to allow the offices to operate seamlessly at six-megabit-per-second and 10Mbps Metro Ethernet connections.

“Since the ITSP initiative started, we have given individual budget to each district to come up with their ICT initiative, but later we found that the systems cannot interface with those of their districts. So, under the second phase, we will make sure that all offices will be linked,” Ch’ng said.

By year-end, nine district offices and 12 local councils are expected to be linked under the initiative.

Under the ITSP roadmap, the State Government is also looking at creating a more knowledge-based society.

“Our target is to provide broadband access capability to 90 per cent of households in the State by 2010, and this will be done under the Klang Valley Broadband Push initiative,” Ch’ng said.

To make sure that the target is met, the State Government is working with organisations such as telecommunications service providers, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit, Mimos and libraries.

“On top of that, we are talking to a number of housing estate developers to develop a ready infrastructure for broadband access at their housing estates. If the houses are broadband-ready, the adoption of the Internet in households can be sped up,” Ch’ng pointed out.

Currently, broadband penetration in Selangor is at 19 per cent, up three per cent from last year’s figure.

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