

# Aiming to be regional leader in digital economy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia aims to be a regional leader in the digital economy by 2030 with the launch of MyDigital, paving the way for the government in transforming the nation into a high-income country by leveraging technology and digitalisation.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Economic Affairs Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said to do this, the country needed to address challenges so that the goal of reducing the digital gap could be achieved.

These included low quality broadband services, incomplete provision of digital infrastructure and insufficient skilled workforce, he said.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has prompted the government, the private sector and the community to step up all our efforts to master digital technology," he said at the launch of MyDigital and the Malaysia Digital Econ-

omy Blueprint here yesterday.

Mustapa said the current trend of the gig economy was gaining traction, particularly gig services and rising demand for digitally skilled manpower.

"The Economic Planning Unit has been mandated to formulate the Malaysian Digital Economic Framework," he said.

Mustapa said the blueprint had taken into account the views and inputs of various stakeholders, including the general public, industry and government agencies, thus ensuring a comprehensive framework.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) Minister Khairy Jamaludin were also involved in preparing the blueprint, with several outlines that would be implemented until 2030.

"It sets the country's vision of

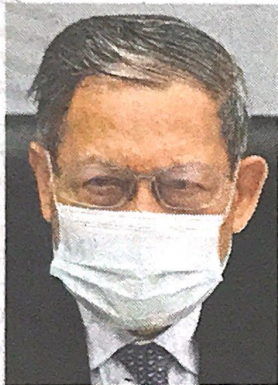
becoming a regional leader in the digital economy while achieving inclusive, responsible and sustainable socio-economic development," he said.

Mustapa said the blueprint had three objectives. First, it encouraged industry players to become creators and consumers of innovative business models.

Second, it aimed to produce human capital capable of competitiveness and third, it fosters an integrated ecosystem that enables communities to participate in the digital economy.

The government had identified six strategic thrusts for the blueprint to drive digital transformation in the public sector, besides creating an inclusive, secure and ethical digital environment.

The implementation of this blueprint was divided into three phases, with phase one — strengthening the basis of digital usage from this year until the next, and phase two, which is driving inclusive digital transformation from 2023 to 2025.



*Datuk Seri  
Mustapa Mohamed*

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# 'We must be prepared to face the digital wave responsibly'

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Phase 3, which is from 2026 to 2030, aims to make the country a regional leader in the field of digital content and cybersecurity.

Mustapa said Malaysians must be prepared to face the digital wave responsibly while seizing the benefits of technology.

"The government is acutely aware of the difficulties faced by children and parents in coping with online learning.

"Hence, the MY Device initiative will be introduced to ensure that all students have access to digital devices for learning purposes by 2025," he said, adding that this initiative would be implemented through cooperation between the government, private sector and the public.

He said free data would be provided to students from vulnerable groups, in line with the country's target of becoming a regional leader in the digital economy by 2030.

"This target coincides with the strength of Malaysia, which consists of various cultural and multilingual backgrounds, as well as a workforce that can easily adapt to change.

"The focus will be on creating digitally literate businesses as well as successfully operating services from the beginning to the end and driving innovation that is capable of transforming the industry," he said.

Mustapa said businesses would be able to leverage a wider market through digitalisation, as well as to increase their competitiveness. These improvements would not only make it easier for the people to deal with government agencies, but would also improve the delivery of public services, besides promoting transparency and integrity among civil servants.

In November, the government established the National Digital Economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Council to lead all national digitalisation initiatives chaired by the prime minister.

The council's objectives by 2025 included providing all students with access to online learning, making 80 per cent of all government processes online and equipping all ministries and agencies with cashless payment facilities. It also aimed to get all micro, small- and medium-scale enterprises that are the backbone of the economy to embrace digital technology.