Telekom Malaysia Bhd is the only Malaysian company earmarked for the MyDigital initiative, according to Pikom. FILE PIC

DATA CENTRE PROVIDERS

Call for more local players in MyDigital initiative

KUALA LUMPUR: The SME Association of Malaysia and National Tech Association of Malaysia (Pikom) are urging the government to include local players in the building and management of hyperscale data centres and hybrid cloud services under the MyDigital initiative.

SME Association vice-president Chin Chee Seong said the initiative should be broadened to include more local data centre providers to further develop local talent, skills and intellectual property (IP) for Malaysia.

"Some local data centre providers are already of world-class standing, with a number of them supporting multinational companies and organisations in Malaysia and the region," said Chin, who is also Malaysia Cross-Border e-Commerce Association national president.

The government has given conditional approvals for Microsoft Corp, Google LLC, Amazon.com, Inc and Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM) under the initiative, which comes under the National Digital Economy Blueprint, to fulfil this objective. This is in line with the government's aim of migrating 80 per cent of public data into the hybrid cloud system by end-2022 under the cloud-first strategy.

Pikom chairman Danny Lee said adopting a level playing field inclusive of local data centre providers would ensure that the industry could continue to thrive.

"TM is the only local firm earmarked for this initiative. We should not forget other local players, which have built up this market for Malaysia, so much so that our country is also known as an ideal location for business continuity and disaster recovery."

Malaysia Internet Exchange chairman Chiew Kok Hin hoped the government would provide more details and greater clarity about the MyDigital plan.

"What has been disclosed are broad strokes of the overall strategy. We believe that execution is just as critical for Malaysia to realise its aspirations of becoming a data centre hub in Asia-Pacific."