Cyber war shapes up
Masing: Social media can determine outcome of coming polls, BN prepared.

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KUCHING: Social media is seen as an important player in determining who will win the coming general election. But this time, Barisan Nasional is ready, according to Land Development Minister Tan Sri Dr James Masing.

He said as far as using the social media was concerned, Barisan had geared up enough and was prepared to do battle against any allegations made by the Opposition.

"In 2008, Barisan was caught with its pants down but not now. We are prepared," he told a press conference here yesterday.

He admitted that he himself was from the "Jurassic era" and had not caught up yet with the trend today. Having said that, he still kept up through his staff, who are well-versed in information technology (IT).

In fact, he said, he had even read blogs that were riddled with lies. "They may not be accountable to the public but they are accountable to the one up there (God). You must never divert from the truth and just blog about things imaginatively," he said.

Later when officiating at the Colloquium on Applications of IT in the Industry, Masing said the government had always encouraged the use of IT and had created several portals to expedite its delivery to the people.

He went on to say that the development of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) in the state and Vision 2020 presented monumental challenges in science and technology.

"We will need people who are up-to-date with the latest technology. We need people who are creative and bold. We need people who are committed to success. In short, we need people like you," he told students at the event, organised by International College of Advanced Technology Sarawak (ICATS).

He said the government was committed in ensuring no one was left behind in any technological advancement.

"Many young Sarawakians have achieved success in the global stage so do not be afraid to push yourself to greater heights." ICATS Board of Governors member Dr Razali Abon assured that the college would continue to do its part to support the government's agenda for quality human capital.

He said to-date, ICATS had churned out 535 graduates since 2008 and was hoping to produce more in various fields.

He added that the college would do so through close collaborations with other partner institutions within in Malaysia and abroad.

The colloquium would have five speakers from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), IFCA Consulting (Sarawak) and Sarawak Social Media Association.
Learning something new: The audience at the Colloquium on Applications of Information Technology in the Industry.