

# West Port will promote trade, says Mahathir

KLANG: The West Port will boost the country's economy by allowing more ships to enter Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the West Port was important to the development of the country because the present ports lacked facilities.

"I am satisfied with the progress (of its construction)," he said after his first official visit to the West Port.

He hoped the port would bring more shipping lines to Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir was given a one-hour briefing at the site office followed by a boat tour of Pulau Indah, where the West Port is located.

Also present were

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Klang Port Authority (KPA) chairman Datuk Michael Chen.

During the briefing, KPA general manager M. Rajasingam said Port Klang would handle a total of 89.7 million tonnes of cargo.

He said the first phase of the West Port would be completed by October and the second phase by December next year.

The 11km-long West Port costing RM1.5 billion would have berths for dry and liquid bulk cargo, containers, general cargo, and liquefied petroleum gas and capable of accommodating a total of 80,000 displacement tonnes.