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DR MAHATHIR TO VISIT APL'S LARGEST CONTAINER

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is to visit APL China, one of six APL vessels providing weekly direct sailings between Malaysia and North America, when the containership make its maiden call at Port Klang on Jan 9.

APL Agencies Sdn Bhd said in a statement today that the arrival of the 4,800 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) capacity vessel would mark an important milestone in the inauguration of direct shipping services between Port Klang and major ports in the trans-Pacific trade jointly offered by APL and four other shipping lines under the Global Alliance consortium.

APL and its Global Alliance members provide the direct call in response to the rapidly expanding trade between Malaysia and the world markets, as well as in its effort to continually enhance the level of international transportation services available to Malaysian firms.

The direct call would give shippers in Malaysia the fastest transmit time available -- just 17 days -- between Port Klang and the US West Coast.

American President Companies Ltd (APC) chairman George Hayashi will welcome Dr Mahathir on board APL China, one of the largest containerships afloat.

APC is the parent company of American President Lines Ltd, which together with Essmarine Agencies Sdn Bhd, set up APL Agencies Sdn Bhd in July last year.

-- BERNAMA