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PORTS' EDI SYSTEM TO BE OPERATIONAL BY DECEMBER 1996

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- The Electronic Digital Interchange (EDI), for ports is targeted to be operational next month, said transport deputy minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam.

He said the implementation of the exercise had taken a long time as the Custom and Excise Department, a key agency in electronic commerce, was using a different system from the EDI system.

Speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing of contracts for the RM250 million wharf extension to two consortia and two companies at Bintulu Port here today, he said, "These new systems will be used by both the department and EDI."

The government, he added, wanted Malaysian ports to be equipped with a system which could install more input than the existing one and that could cater for more traffic.

He said the Treasury has also bought the same EDI system.

The exercise would cater for the expanding usage of ports in Malaysia following the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who launched West Port in Port Klang last September.

Commenting on plans to build more ports or privatising other ports in Sabah and Sarawak, he said he was not aware of any plans as all applications would be sent by the state governments to the Economic Planning Unit (EPU).

"I haven't seen any application or parties interested to take over ports especially in Sabah," he added. -- BERNAMA

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