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SEPARATE MANAGEMENT FOR LUMUT MARITIME TERMINAL, LUMUT PORT IND PARK

IPOH, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Management of the Lumut Maritime Terminal (LMT) and Lumut Port Industrial Park (LPIP) is to be split in two to spur development and enhance profits, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today.

LMT and LPIP are now managed by Lumut Maritime Terminal Sdn Bhd (LMTSB), 30 percent owned by the Perak State Development Corporation (PSDC) and 70 percent by a Bumiputera investment holding company, Halim Rasip Holdings.

Ramli, who is PSDC chairman, said it was undertaking a restructuring of LMTSB to set up separate management entities for LMT and LPIP.

Among the steps being taken was to set up a subsidiary company under LMTSB to handle the development and management of LPIP while LMTSB continued to develop and manage LMT, he told a press conference after chairing a PSDC board of directors meeting here.

The RM250-million LMT, adjacent to LPIP in Kampung Aceh, Lumut, was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July last year.

Denying that LMTSB was not profit-making, Ramli said LMTSB had been making operational profits but PSDC hoped it could increase its profits in the years ahead through the management restructuring.

With the split in management, LMT was projected to make a profit of RM1 million by 1997, RM3 million in 1998 and RM5 million in 1999, while LPIP profits were projected at RM25.25 million for 1995-1996 and RM33.46 million in 1997, he added.

Ramli said PSDC had been given the green light to acquire a multipurpose vessel, costing RM46 million, through its subsidiary, Perak Freight Services, to further boost activities at LMT.

The vessel, which could be used for transporting cement, coal and containers, would fully utilise LMT services, he added.

LMT had handled 86 ships carrying a total of 278,001 tonnes of cargo up till December last year.

Its 350-metre long wharf, which could handle barges and ships of up to 35,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt), can accommodate two vessels at one time.

The terminal was designed to handle mainly dry and break bulk cargo.

Under the second phase, expected to be launched soon, a liquid bulk jetty would be built to handle petroleum, chemical products and vegetable oils.

Ramli said today's meeting also decided on the integrated tourism industrial development programme which among other things would develop handicraft, tourist sites, hotels and tourism services such as restaurants, tour operators and transportation.

Initially, a study would be conducted on developing local historical, cultural and heritage sites into tourist attractions that could be marketed locally and internationally, he added.

The programme also envisaged expansion of the Lumut jetty into a harbour for large ships and cruise vessels to stopover.

Ramli said the PSDC board also agreed to add another RM15 million to the existing RM5 million for its vendor development programmes, and approved the setting up of a committee to select companies which could be appointed "anchors" to Bumiputera vendors under the programme.

PSDC had identified 13 vendor projects, of which three had been

implemented, he added. -- BERNAMA
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