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Ling-Freight

FREIGHT TRANSPORT INDUSTRY GROWS IN TANDEM WITH MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- The freight transport industry has grown from strength to strength in tandem with Malaysia strong economic growth, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today.

He said air cargo had been recording impressive growth with total movements growing from 381.41 million kg in 1994 to 482.03 million kg in 1995.

"This rose to 541.42 million kilograms in 1996," he said when launching Malaysia's first express distribution and logistics management company, CEN Worldwide Sdn Bhd.

Cen Worldwide is fully owned division of CEN Sdn Bhd, the holding company made up of three entities namely Pos Malaysia Bhd which holds 42.5 per cent equity, Transmile Group Bhd 37.5 per cent and Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd 20 per cent and a golden share is held by the Finance Ministry.

Dr Ling also witnessed the signing of a memorandum on an agreement among the three companies with Pos Malaysia represented by its executive chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood, Transmile CEO Gan Boon Aun and Konsortium Perkapalan by its executive chairman Mirzan Mahathir.

In the maritime sector, he said cargo handled at ports increased from 129.93 million freightweight tonnes in 1994 to 147.38 million in 1995 and 168.85 million freightweight tonnes last year.

Dr Ling said the government was well aware of the growing importance of the express distribution and logistics management industry and aimed to further encourage and foster its development.

The government, he said, would continue to lay emphasis on facilities and infrastructural development to support the growth of the express distribution and logistics management industry.

He said the planning and implementation of new as well as the upgrading of existing airports and ports would also take into account the needs of the industry.

"For example, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), which we are currently developing, is also designed with special facilities for sorting mail, packages as well specialised cargo," he said.

Other measures that would be considered were the introduction of more full freighter operations, negotiations for new destinations and increase frequencies for designated Malaysian carriers and the encouragement of more airlines and shipping lines to Malaysia, he said.

Mirzan, who is also CEN CEO said the company's goal was to be the leader in the movement of timesensitive and high value goods and this involved the setting up of an express distribution capability in all the markets their served or intended to serve.

With the establishment of the network, he said CEN believed that the region's commercial sector would be better served and therefor all nations in the region, particularly Malaysia, would enhance their competitive advantage.

He said the formation of CEN was unique in that it harnessed the combined resources of three Malaysia leading companies in their respective fields of transportations and logistics management, each company contributing their own inherent expertise, resource and experience.

Pos Malaysia, through the resources of Pos Laju, will offer manpower, vehicular support and a network of over 600 post offices nationwide.

Transmile Group, on the other hand, will contribute air transport facilities with its existing fleet of 11 aircraft with immediate plans for an additional two. The group will also facilitate access to regional and international markets in its capacity as Malaysia's designated cargo carrier.

Konsortium Perkapalan, meanwhile, with its network of distribution and warehousing facilities within the region, contributes its expertise in logistics management and developing customer-specific solutions. -- BERNAMA  
SJA ABG