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KPA, Dakar port to boost cooperation

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KLANG Port Authority (KPA) and the Port Authority of Dakar in Senegal yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding to further improve cooperation between the two ports.

At the signing ceremony in Port Klang, KPA chairman Datuk Michael Chen said the agreement was mainly for port management, marine engineering, marine and harbour works, protection of the environment and pollution control.

"It will also cover assistance in port security and navigation matters, the setting up of free commercial zones, distriparks and inland ports, the development and commissioning of port management and information and the invitation of experts to participate in conferences, seminars and courses," he said.

He added that both parties agreed to exchange information on port cargo statistics, trade routes and trends in maritime transport, ship technology and port equipment handling technology and international maritime fraud.

The exchange of information on maritime fraud will mean that both ports will exchange information about any fraudulent information they come across, as a means of warning to the other port.

This shows that there is no limit to the exchange of information between the two parties, Chen said.

The MOU will also pave the way for both parties to promote each other's port to shipping companies, importers, exporters and freight forwarders, particularly with regards to the facilities provided, service quality, port infrastructure and it's ability to handle different ships and cargo.

Chen explained that if a shipper wanted to ship something from the Port of Dakar to Asia for example, the African port officials could recommend the shipment to come to Port Klang and vice versa.

"Port Klang will then become the gateway for goods coming from Dakar and on to Asia," Chen pointed out.

He also said cargo from Asia which was bound for Africa need not go through Europe first as is practised now.

The MOU also provides for the simplification of procedures and port documents.

Datin O.C. Phang, KPA's general manager, said this was the beginning of the understanding between the two ports and that they were heeding the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for South-South cooperation.

The documents were inked by O.C Phang for KPA and Pathe Ndiaye, the director general of the Port Authority of Dakar.

It was witnessed by Chen and Mr Moubarack Lo, the counsellor to the Prime Minister.

The 14 member Senegal delegation also visited the Customs department and were given a briefing on Customs clearance procedures before visiting West Port yesterday afternoon.

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