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Ling-Cargo

MANUFACTURERS URGED TO USE LOCAL PORTS

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Sept (Bernama) -- The government has decided that locally-generated cargo must be handled by Malaysian ports and airports, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"We are studying several measures to ensure that this principle is properly adhered to by local manufacturers," he told reporters after a post-Cabinet meeting.

If the manufacturers stopped going through foreign ports and airports, there would be a reduction in the outflow of foreign exchange and this could help to cut the country's current account deficit, Dr Ling said.

He said 30 per cent of the manufacturers still used foreign ports and hoped they would back the new government policy.

Local cargo handling facilities are efficient and would involve lower costs, the minister said.

On his visit to Mongolia along with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir last week, Dr Ling said Mongolian officials would be invited to Malaysia shortly to sign an air pact between the two countries.

He said Malaysia was prepared to help Mongolia to build an inland port in the landlocked country to help draw foreign investors and facilitate imports and exports of goods.

Dr Ling also said that in line with the government's call for its ministries and agencies to use Malaysian cars, his ministry planned to provide him with a Proton Perdana. -- BERNAMA

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