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MIRZAN SEES SYNERGISTIC BENEFIT FROM KPB AND TRANSMILE OPERATIONS

PETALING JAYA, April 30 (Bernama) -- Mirzan Mahathir, Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd (KPB) chairman, plans to tap the synergy provided by local air cargo provider, Transmile Group Bhd, by offering an integrated logistic service for the Asia Pacific region.

Mirzan is one of the substantial shareholder of KPB, one of the main local player in the shipping and haulier industry. He is also chairman of Transmile.

"We are trying to handle transshipment of the goods of multinational companies which are locating their manufacturing operations throughout the region by providing a comprehensive road, sea and air cargo services," he said.

"Through KPB and Transmile adoption of `just in time 'and information technology systems, we can help these multinationals optimise control of their inventory," he told newsmen at the Vision 2020 National Congress, here today.

The `just in time' started in Japan whereby a manufacturing company only stocks the necessary inventory for a short period of time for its own use. Goods sent to the manufacturing company will be timed in such a way that the stocks will always be kept at a low level.

Mirzan said KPB has identified Transmile as a partner given its expertise and knowledge of the air cargo industry as well as the fact that Transmile is expanding its services in the region.

"We are hoping to start the multi-modal logistic service by the end of the year," he added.

On competition from the more established integrated logistic service providers, he said, "We believe there is an advantage in starting late".

"We do have certain advantages in terms of cost and effective information system," he said, adding that KPB and Transmile planned to compete by offering the best they could.

As part of its expansion and in preparation for partnership with KPB, Mirzan said Transmile was looking at expanding its fleet to add strength to its existing seven Boeing 737 aircraft.

The fleet expansion would be through acquisition of either new or used aircraft, he said, adding that the size and number of aircraft would depend on the volume of business and routes it would cover.

He also said that Transmile has applied to the government for permission to expand its routes within the region.

"We have to rely on government's support. We do want to expand," he said.

On the latest development of Westport Holdings Sdn Bhd, which KPB is interested in buying if offered a stake, he would only say that "it is still ongoing".

Westport Holdings is the operator of Port Klang Westport located in Pulau Indah, Port Klang.

Asked whether the company has submitted a proposal to the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department to acquire the Westport Holdings' stake, he said, "I cannot say very much". -- BERNAMA

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