

National feeder service planned

5/11/98

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government is planning for a national feeder company to handle the transportation of cargo from smaller local ports to Port Klang.

"The plan will be proposed to the ports.

"We hope they will gather their financial capability for the setting up of the national feeder company which aims at bringing cargo to Port Klang as a national load centre," said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lina Lione Sik.

He hoped the plan could materialise as soon as possible, adding that the company's structure would be decided later.

Several major ports in the region had such feeders and it was time for Malaysia to do so, he told reporters yesterday during a joint press conference with International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Earlier, both of them and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held a dialogue at Putra World Trade Centre here on promoting of the usage of Port Klang.

Rafidah said the Government would look into the setting up of a one-stop task force which would house various port services, including immigration customs and quarantine under one roof.

"It will act as a co-ordinating agency," she said.

Rafidah also said that statistics had shown that 42% of the goods sent to Port Klang would be feedered to the Singapore port afterwards.

In Penang port, about half of the cargo would be feedered to Singapore, she said.

Rafidah added that the figure in Pasir Gudang was 65%.

"We would like to see the feedering to be to Port Klang now," she said.