

PM to chair⁶ dialogue session with^{515.10.98} port users

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will chair a dialogue session with local port users on Oct 31 on the need to use local ports, mainly Port Klang.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the Prime Minister would also call for the port users' co-operation in the government's effort to help stimulate economic growth.

"The Prime Minister's personal involvement in efforts to boost the use of local ports will lift the campaign to greater heights as it is also a national agenda," he said yesterday.

He said the dialogue would involve those in the industry including exporters, importers, freight forwarders and hauliers.

Dr Ling said they should support the government effort to promote Port Klang as one of the main load centres in the region by shipping their cargo directly from the port and not going through Singapore.

"The aim to make Port Klang one of the top 10 in the world will soon be met but firstly we must stop 'leakages' to Singapore.

"Port Klang's efficiency, facilities and a tariff which has not changed for 35 years are among the factors for it to be a favourable stop for ships."

Dr Ling said Port Klang was also encouraging outer catchment areas such as Belawan, Medan and Tanjung Periuk to use it as a transshipment centre.