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Cabinet wants more to use Port Klang

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Cabinet has urged every Malaysian to play his part in promoting the use of Port Klang, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to chair a special meeting soon with those involved in the industry for the purpose of realising this.

Dr Ling said Dr Mahathir would present an outline of all the plans and strategies to promote greater use of Port Klang.

"We would like to call on all those involved to play their roles in ensuring Port Klang's success," he added.

Speaking before chairing his Ministry's post-Cabinet meeting, Dr Ling said the Cabinet felt promotional activities carried out by the Ministry and Port Klang alone were not enough.

Dr Ling said it was also agreed that the Selangor State Government, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, hauliers, freight forwarders, importers, exporters and the various Chambers of Commerce should be active participants.

"It is at times like this that the country needs to ensure greater savings and not allow our money to flow out," he said.

Dr Ling said the benefits of using local ports were manifold, adding that this would create a host of auxiliary activities that would benefit the workers and other industries such as banking, insurance and ship bunkering.

He said a seventh generation container vessel, Regina Maersk, which can move 6,600 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units containers) would be calling at Port Klang on Aug 28.

"It is one of the biggest container ships to call at the port," he said, adding that this showed that Port Klang was capable and ready to handle container vessels of any size.

Dr Ling said it was very important that there was enough cargo to attract main line shipping vessels to call at Port Klang.

Port Klang's throughput had increased since 1994 and the export of transshipment cargo for this year is expected to increase by 40 per cent.

On the status of KL Sentral and the Electric Rail Link between Kuala Lumpur and Nilai, he said: "The Treasury is still studying how it can assist KL Sentral as the station is important for Putra-LRT and ERL projects".

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