

17 OCT 1998

Ling-Port

DR MAHATHIR TO HOLD DIALOGUE WITH LOCAL PORT USERS ON OCT 31

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will chair a dialogue with local port users on Oct 31 on the importance of using local ports, especially Port Klang, to help stimulate Malaysia's economic growth.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today the dialogue would involve representatives of freight forwarders, hauliers, importers, exporters and other players in the transport industry.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Koperasi Serbaguna Malaysia (KSM) annual general meeting here, he said Malaysia was losing between RM3 and RM5 billion a year as a result of Malaysian importers and exporters using the Singapore port.

He said the players' support was needed to rectify this situation by helping the government to promote Port Klang as one of the main load centres in the region.

Dr Ling said Port Klang are now the most efficient port in the region, especially in container clearance, and had ample space to store empty containers.

He said efforts to make local ports load centres should not be the sole responsibility of the ministry.

On KSM, he said the cooperative are starting to generate income for the benefit of its members since it was given a new lease of life in July last year after 11 years under receivership and a special committee.

To help KSM generate income, the government had agreed to approve 100 Klang Valley taxi licences for the cooperative, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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