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LOGISTICS-TRADE

LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE VITAL FOR TRADE GROWTH

SHAH ALAM, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- An efficient and cost-effective logistics infrastructure is needed as it is vital for the nation to meet the demand from the growing international trade both here and across the region, said Konsortium Perkapalan Berhad Group executive chairman, Mirzan Mahathir.

He said with it international trade would grow at even faster rate and Malaysia will then be well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity.

" However to do so, it is imperative that we have the infrastructure, particularly in the area of logistics to meet the demand, said Mirzan while speaking at the contract signing ceremony between Westport Distripark (M) Sdn Bhd and Philip Morris (M) Sdn Bhd here today.

Under the six-year contract, Westport Distripark, a subsidiary of Konsortium Perkapalan would provide warehousing facilities and services to Philip Morris.

Mirzan signed on behalf of Westport Distripark while Philip Morris was represented by its general manager, Rocardo Cergneux. Also present was Philip Morris vice president Antonio Marques.

Westport Distripark is a joint venture between Konsortium Perkapalan with a 80 percent stake and Kelang Multi Terminal Bhd (KMT), operator of the West Port which holds 20 percent of the company's equity.

First phase of the facility was developed at a cost of RM150 million at Westport, Pulau Indah and is strategically located along the Far East/Europe service route with direct shipping link to international routes.

It is well linked by road and railway to Port Klang and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

The first phase involved four warehouses with a capacity of 670,000 sq ft. of which 470,000 sq ft was given to double-story warehouses and another 200,000 sq ft to a conventional storage area with value-added facilities and temperature control rooms.

According to Mirzan, buildings in phase two and three would be developed on a 9.6 ha site next year - phase two for the storage and distribution of dangerous goods while phase three for the refurbishment of foreign cars and computers.

Among the services provided by the company are regional distribution, container freight station and cargo consolidation, transshipment, trading services and value added activities like packing and repacking, packaging and repackaging, labelling and relabelling, inspection and sampling, sorting and grading.

Mirzan said the contract would bring in a RM5 million business to the company yearly.

He said the logistic facilities at Westport Distripark has been developed as a distribution megahub to meet the demands of the most challenging businesses and Philip Morris selection of it as its logistics partner is testimony to their confidence in its ability to provide quality service and support.

Meanwhile Westport Distripark general manager Kamaruddin Awang said 70 percent of the area of warehouse number one has already been taken up while the other three warehouses, 50 percent.

Marques while speaking at the ceremony said a well-managed and efficient warehousing partner was crucial for Philip Morris with its South

East Asia operation established in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan with a state of the art factory facility designed to handle current and future export volume along with its growing domestic market.

And fortunately for the company, he said, it found and selected Westport Distripark as one of its main partners to assist in its operation on a long term basis.

Marques said Philip Morris decided to establish its South East Asia operation in Malaysia for many good reasons and in particular, it has diverse and well-educated group with an extremely progressive infrastructure programme. -- Bernama

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