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## Forwarding agents back promotion of Port Klang

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THE Association of Forwarding Agents Port Klang, (AFAPK), fully supports the Government's efforts to promote the use of Port Klang through the set-up of a special committee to spearhead its campaign to promote the use of Port Klang.

Its president, Encik Shamsuddin Abdul Rahman, said the fact that the committee will be headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad shows how serious the Government is taking the issue of turning Port Klang into a regional hub.

"We, therefore, support all efforts being made by the Government and will be asking all our members to do the same in promoting the use of Port Klang among exporters and importers and the relevant industry players."

"We can see how dedicated the Government is in its efforts to make this a reality and we heed this call for a total national effort," Shamsuddin said.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik announced on August 12 that the Cabinet had decided to set up a special committee, to be headed by Dr Mahathir, to promote Port Klang.

The committee will comprise representatives from the ministries of Transport and International Trade and Industry, port authorities, freight forwarders, hauliers, shippers and other relevant bodies.

It will ensure that every single link in the transport chain plays an effective role in promoting Port Klang as a national and regional load centre.

Shamsuddin added that the increased use of Port Klang will benefit freight forwarders as well, due to its spin off effect.

"As more business comes in, it translates into more business for the freight forwarders."

He said the Federation of Malaysian Freight Forwarders (FMFF) is also working together with the various state associations to do a detailed study on the total charges paid by exporters and importers who use Malaysian ports and airports.

The study is being carried out by the state associations of Perak, Johor, Penang and Port Klang.

"We not only want to be more transparent, but also see the comparison in charges between Malaysian ports and Singapore port," Shamsuddin said, adding that he hopes the study will be ready by September, after which it will be forwarded to the relevant ministries and bodies for further action.

The ministries of Transport, International Trade and Industry, and Finance will get copies of the study as will bodies like the Malaysian Administrative, Modernisation and Management Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, Shamsuddin said.

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