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Ling-Crane

JPJ, COTT TO COOPERATE TO TRAIN HEAVY VEHICLE OPERATORS

SEREMBAN, June 22 (Bernama) -- The Road Transport Department (JPJ) has agreed in principle to cooperate with Crane Operators Testing and Training Sdn Bhd (COTT) to train and conduct tests for heavy vehicle drivers including crane operators.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the agreement was reached in a meeting between the two parties recently.

Details on the duration and fee for the training programme are being worked out, he told reporters after visiting COTT in Nilai, near here, today.

JPJ director-general Datuk Pahamin Rajab was also present.

Dr Ling said he was impressed with the facilities at the training centre, the first of its kind in Malaysia to train heavy vehicle operators.

Training for crane operators and heavy vehicle drivers was necessary to ensure safety at construction sites and reduce worksite accidents, he said.

Meanwhile, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) executive director Dr Abed Onn said effective Aug 1, building contractors are required to ensure cranes were handled by qualified operators.

The requirement, which was to be enforced on Feb 1, had been extended for another six months due to lukewarm response from crane operators to attend trainings, he said.

He also said his ministry's secretary-general would meet domestic airline operators to decide which airline would use the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang for domestic flights after all flight operations moved to the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang by end of this month.

Dr Ling, who is also MCA president, said all party matters must be settled within the party channels to ensure continued stability.

He said it is a standing instruction in MCA that all party matters must be settled from within.

"The vast majority of members appreciated stability and they wanted to see continuous stability and unity," he said when responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to Umno members to use party channels to raise issues which could potentially harm the party and country.

Dr Mahathir issued the reminder in his winding-up speech at the Umno General Assembly which ended yesterday.

-- BERNAMA.

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