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KPB still looking at Transmile deal

KONSORTIUM Perkapalan Bhd (KPB) is still weighing whether it is worth acquiring the 35 per cent stake in Transmile Air Services Sdn Bhd for RM78.75 million, its executive chairman Mirzan Mahathir said yesterday.

"We are still looking at the deal. If it provides value to us, certainly (we will take it up)," he told reporters after the Container Hauliers Association of Malaysia (Cham)'s Eight Annual General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Mirzan, who is also Cham president, declined to say when the decision will be made. "We can't give a definite date."

Asked how the acquisition can help in KPB's business if indeed the deal goes through, he said, it forms part of the company's goal to become a total integrated logistics company.

"Certainly, the air freight component is important. It is now a question of how we can participate in that sector and how efficiently or effectively we can use our existing resources," he said.

Mirzan said under the current economic situation, KPB must ensure that it is able to provide a service to its customers at all times.

"That's why we are looking at Transmile Air as one of the ways to progress. We will still concentrate on cargo," he added.

As of May 31, 1998, KPB has 455 prime movers and 2,302 trailers.

"We are in the process of a fleet renewal exercise. We want to keep our fleet young, but it is difficult since the cost of prime movers has increased significantly in recent months," he said.

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