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Malaysia pledges to help Djibouti

PULAU INDAH, Wed. - Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today said Malaysia would help resolve the port problems of Djibouti and train its officers.

He was responding to a request made by Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon during a visit to Westport.

Aptidon, who was impressed by the operations at Port Klang, said the international port of Djibouti, strategically located for both regional distribution and international trade, was facing problems including congestion.

"Malaysia, which has solved many of its port problems such as congestion, can now share its expertise and experience with those in the port of Djibouti," he said.

He said with the increase in international maritime traffic, the port of Djibouti had become a major centre for trade in the region.

"We also want Malaysia to have closer trade relationships with our country and our doors are always open to those who want to initiate business ties."

Port of Djibouti director Aden Ahmed Douale said about US\$50 million (RM210 million) had been invested on port modernisation.

The International Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Djibouti vice-president Abdourahman Mohamed Boreh added that there were many business opportunities in Djibouti.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also assured the Djibouti president and delegation that he would send a team at the end of this month to tap the trade potential of the country.

To a Press question on Malaysia Airlines operating domestic flights from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang, Dr Ling said it was up to Malaysia Airlines to decide on such flights from Subang.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir made a farewell call on Aptidon.

The Djibouti President will pay a farewell call on the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar tomorrow.

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