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Mahathir - Port

NO LEGISLATION TO COMPEL EXPORTERS YET, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said, if necessary, the government will formulate legislations to compel Malaysian exporters to use local ports, Port Klang in particular.

"At the moment, we have not yet started the process," he said.

The prime minister told a news conference this after a dialogue with chief executive officers of Malaysian trading companies at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Dr Mahathir said the chief executive officers who attended the dialogue welcomed the government's suggestion that they use Port Klang for exportation.

Dr Mahathir said because the companies concerned would have to make several adjustments first, exporting through Port Klang and other Malaysian ports would take time.

"They welcome the use of Port Klang. However it will take a little time as it means having to shift from the practice they are so used to," he said.

During his closed-door dialogue with them, Dr Mahathir said he explained to the CEOs measures by the government to promote greater use of Malaysian ports and the benefits to be derived especially in maximising trade with the country.

Recently Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had reportedly said the government might consider making it mandatory for companies dealing with exports to ship through Port Klang.

-- BERNAMA

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