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Koh-Myanmar

PULAU PINANG TO PREPARE A PAPER ON MYANMAR-PULAU PINANG TRADE

PULAU PINANG, May 27 (Bernama) -- The state government will prepare a paper on Myanmar-Pulau Pinang trade in its effort to revive and promote trade between the two countries, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

He said in a statement released here that the paper would be based on the discussion between Myanmar Trade Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Than and traders in Pulau Pinang.

The discussion will be held following the official visit of Kyaw Than to Pulau Pinang scheduled on June 11 after his official visit to Kuala Lumpur.

He said the paper would be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for consideration, since the Myanmar-Pulau Pinang barter trade has been a thriving business until four years ago when the federal government decided to ban it here.

One of the major problem has been the fact that the traders and travellers coming on Myanmar boats did not carry relevant documents and the Myanmar embassy did not recognise their status, thus making repatriation very difficult if any illegal immigrant is arrested here, he said.

"I am very keen to have the Myanmar trade revived and has so far made two appeals to the federal authority, but to no avail," he said.

He said that with the visit of the Trade Minister, a better and proper arrangement could be worked out between the relevant authorities in Kuala Lumpur and in Yangon.

Koh said he has assigned State Trade, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum to work out the paper based on discussion with the Myanmar Trade Minister and traders in Pulau Pinang.

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