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SHIPPING-FEEDER

TIMELY TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL FEEDER COMPANY, SAYS DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- It is timely for Malaysia to establish a national feeder company to bring all cargos from Malaysia to Port Klang to increase cargo loading in the national premier port, said Transport Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Speaking to reporters after attending a dialogue with the port users here today to promote the usage of Port Klang, he said the formation of such companies was still at proposal stage.

The dialogue was chaired by Prime Minister cum First Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and was also attended by Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Dr Ling said: "It is a proposal. We hope they (feeder companies) can pool their financial capability to form a national feeder company to bring cargos to Port Klang in order to centralise cargo loading in Port Klang."

This is because several large ports in the region, already have their own feeder companies, he added.

Asked on the structure of the feeder company, Dr Ling said the structure is to be decided later, but the government would like the local ports to ensure every boxes would go to Port Klang.

He added: "At the moment we don't have many feeder companies but some of them are listed."

Meanwhile, Rafidah said so far most of the cargos handled by the local ports, like Port Klang, Pasir Gudang and Pulau Pinang were from Singapore.

She added: "Goods that go to Port Klang, 42 percent are through Singapore port, goods that go to Pulau Pinang, 50 percent are through Singapore, and Pasir Gudang, 65 percent are through Singapore ports."

She said the country would like to see these goods go to Port Klang now.

On the comment that the local ports are oversized, Rafidah said Malaysia's exports had grown by 34 percent this year as compared to last year, which meant it was better to have bigger capacity now.

"At least in the immediate future, when exports are boosted, we will not be complaining about not enough capacity. Not too long ago our problem was under capacity, Pasir Gudang did not have enough container yard and Port Klang also."

Furthermore, she said it was easier to get the business going rather than the infrastructure, which took time to get going, said Rafidah. --

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