

06 NOV 1998

Ling-Y2K

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR READY TO TACKLE Y2K PROBLEM - LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Crucial transportation agencies have taken appropriate measures to deal with the "Millennium Bug" or Y2K problem by June next year, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the KLIAB, the company which manages the KL International Airport in Sepang and Malaysia Airlines (MAS) had assured him that they had taken steps to address the problem.

Companies involved in the maritime and land transportation had also given similar assurances, he told reporters after opening the Y2K Solutions Expo and Forum for the transportation sector, here.

Dr Ling said the government had allocated RM45.2 million to tackle the Y2K problem in the transportation sector estimated to cost around RM54.1 million.

The Y2K problem refers to computer glitches in system errors or shutdown on the eve of the new millennium when computers cannot read "00" for the year 2000 as the numerals also represent the year 1900 in the two-digit systems.

He said the amount allotted by the government was sufficient to overcome the problem while the balance of RM8.9 million would be borne by the private sector.

Dr Ling said the advancement in the transportation industry had led to heavy reliance on computers and thus, exposed it more to the Y2K threat.

"Today's aircraft, for instance, is designed with extreme safety measures but unfortunately most of these systems that provide safety functions are embedded systems that are vulnerable to the Y2K bug sting," he said.

He said a steering committee in the ministry would be responsible to monitor on the progress of the Y2K compliance in the agencies under the ministry and companies engaged in the transportation sector.

The four-day exhibition and forum was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday and closed by the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie today.

-- BERNAMA

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