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WESTPORT DISTRIIPARK

VITAL FOR M'SIA TO HAVE GOOD INFRASTRUCTURE, SAYS MIRZAN

By: K. Muthu

SHAH ALAM, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- It is vital for Malaysia to develop an efficient and cost-effective logistics infrastructure if it is to meet the rising demand from growing international trade, Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd Group Executive Chairman Mirzan Mahathir said today.

There should also be a smooth delivery-on-time infrastructure, he said at the contract signing ceremony between Westport Distripark (M) Sdn Bhd and Philip Morris (M) Sdn Bhd here today.

With international trade growing at an even faster rate in the future, Malaysia is well-positioned to capitalise on this opportunity, he said.

"However to do so, it is imperative that we have the infrastructure, particularly in the area of logistics to meet the demand," said Mirzan.

Under the six-year contract, Westport Distripark, a subsidiary of Konsortium Perkapalan, will provide warehousing facilities and services to Philip Morris.

Mirzan signed of behalf Westport Distripark while Philip Morris was represented by its general manager, Rocardo Cergneux. Also present was Philip Morris vice president Antonio Marques.

Westport Distripark is a joint venture between Konsortium Perkapalan with a 80 percent stake and Kelang Multi Terminal Bhd (KMT), operator of West Port, which holds the remaining 20 percent share.

The first phase of the facility was developed at a cost of RM150 million at Westport, Pulau Indah. It is strategically located along the Far East/Europe service route with direct shipping links to international routes.

It is well-linked by road and railway to Port Klang and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

The first phase involved four warehouses with a capacity of 670,000 sq ft. Of this, 470,000 sq ft comprise double-story warehouses while another 200,000 sq ft entail a conventional storage area with value-added facilities and temperature control rooms.

Mirzan said phases two and three would be developed on a 9.6 ha site next year.

Phase two is targeted for the storage and distribution of dangerous goods while Phase three is for the refurbishment of foreign cars and computers.

Among the services provided by the company are regional distribution, container freight station and cargo consolidation, transshipment, trading services and value added activities like packing and repacking, packaging and repackaging, labelling and re-labelling, inspection and sampling, sorting and grading.

Mirzan said the contract would bring in RM5 million in revenue for the company annually.

He said the logistics facilities at Westport Distripark had been developed as a distribution megahub to meet the demand of the most challenging businesses.

He described its selection by Philip Morris selection as the latter's confidence in Westport Distripark's ability to provide quality service.

Westport Distripark general manager Kamaruddin Awang said 70 percent of area of Warehouse Number One has already been taken up while the other three warehouses have an occupancy of 50 percent.

Philip Morris' Marques said a well-managed and efficient warehousing

partner was crucial for the company as its South East Asian operations was located in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan with a state-of-the-art factory. --
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