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Railway-Singapore

WE HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS ON CHECKPOINT ROW, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today Malaysia has contingency plans to handle railway travellers when the Singapore customs, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint moves to Woodlands tomorrow.

"We have our contingency plans," he told reporters when asked on the fate of Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) train services to Singapore after the move.

"All the senior staff of KTMB have been alerted. They have plans...I have discussed with them. They will be there," he told reporters after opening Tunku Abdul Rahman College's convocation, here.

Asked for details of the contingency plans, he: "Tomorrow, you will know."

Singapore will move its CIQ checkpoint from Tanjung Pagar railway station in central Singapore to Woodlands close to the Malaysian border tomorrow. But Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia would not move its checkpoint to Woodlands.

Singapore said yesterday that talks with Malaysia to resolve the row over railway travel procedures had broken down and travellers would face difficulties if Malaysia does not move its checkpoint to Woodlands, from tomorrow.

Asked whether KTMB's train service would be stopped at Johor Baharu as one of the contingency plans: Dr Ling said "No comment, right now."

Ling said the row over the railway procedures was a bilateral affair which was handled by the Foreign Ministry.

"I believe that both (Malaysia and Singapore) foreign ministers are handling the matter, it is up to them. I hope good sense will prevail. It is an international affair and it is not purely a railway matter," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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