

Port Klang continues strong performance

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By **EIRMALASARE BANI**

PORT Klang continues to have a strong grip on its performance by garnering close to 25 per cent increase in transshipment box handling for the first ten months of this year.

Between January and October this year, the port handled 981,255 20-ft equivalent units (TEUs) of transshipments compared with 785,535 TEUs over the similar period last year. It also handled 2.52 million TEUs of container throughput compared with 2.08 million TEUs previously.

For October alone, the port handled 124,219 TEUs transshipment boxes and 166,904 TEUs container throughput.

"With such impressive performance, I am sure we can reach our target," Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik told Business Times in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Port Klang has targeted to handle three million TEUs of container this year.

The port ended 1999 on a high note, handling

a record container throughput of 2.55 million TEUs, up from 1.8 million TEUs in 1998.

Port Klang was ranked 14th in the list of top container ports in the world last year from 21st previously as it chalked up an impressive performance in terms of total throughput.

Speaking to reporters before chairing the ministry's weekly meeting, Dr Ling said the Cabinet has instructed port authorities to identify suitable places in protected waters to build more marinas.

He said the idea was brought up by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as an effort to further lift up the economy.

"Once we build the infrastructure such as ship repairs, duty free shops, restaurants and others, people will come," Dr Ling said.

While several marinas have been built in Port Dickson, Lumut, Langkawi and Penang, Dr Ling said there are other tourism destinations that can be highlighted such as Malacca, Kukup and Tanjung Piai where luxury ships and yachts can berth.