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Enhancing navigational safety in Straits of Malacca

Ports World Sdn Bhd

THE Vessel Traffic System launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is an advanced communications system that employs radar, VHF and HF radio network that forms part of the International Maritime Organisation-sanctioned Mandatory Ship Reporting System.

The VTS is a fully integrated supervisory control and data acquisition system to manage vessel movements along the Straits of Malacca.

The VTS helps regulate the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits of Malacca.

The TSS is a specially designated multi-lane waterway in the straits introduced to enhance the surveillance of vessel traffic using the busy straits which is a passage way for more than 46,000 ships a year.

The enforcement of the TSS is made possible by designating nine radar stations or sectors along the coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

The radars are located at Tanjung Kemarong (Langkawi); One Fathom Bank (Pulau Angsa, off Port Klang); Bukit Jugra (off Kuala Selangor); Tanjong Tuan (Port Dickson); Pulau Undan (Malacca); Bukit Segenting and Tanjung Piai and Bukit Pengarang (Johor).

The data from each of the radar stations is beamed to the Area Control Centres located at Telok Ewa (Langkawi), at Westport in Port Klang and Tanjung Piai, in Johor.

Speaking at the launch of the VTS, Dr Mahathir said the country was committed towards ensuring navigational safety regionally and internationally.

He said being a maritime nation, the implementation of the VTS is in line with the IMO's resolutions to enhance navigational safety and reduce the risk of pollution.

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