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LI'S INTEREST A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR MALAYSIAN PORTS, SAYS DR LING

PENANG, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- The interest shown by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka Shing in ports in Malaysia could bring advantages and strategic alliances between Malaysian ports and international ports, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said Li's purchase of 30 per cent stake in West Port, Port Klang, through his company, Hutchinson Port Holding Group, could be seen as advantageous to Port Klang because the group runs 122 berths in ports all over the world including Panama, Rotterdam, Myanmar and Jakarta.

West Port could now synergise with other ports and exchange cargoes and information, he told reporters, here.

"It is a strategic alliance and it is very important in a global world. In order to increase the international throughput, the port should look for regional and international cargo and become part of the international cruising," he added.

He said that this was because as the ships become bigger they would call at less ports and Malaysia would not want to be left out as one of the main ports in the region.

Li and his son, Victor, met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday in Hong Kong to discuss his interest in ports in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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