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MAERSK-PTP

MAERSK SEALAND TO START FIVE WEEKLY CALLS AT PTP

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- Maersk Sealand, the world's largest main line operator, will start five weekly services at the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) from June 8.

The services include weekly calls to/from the United States, weekly calls to/from Middle East and weekly calls to/from Northern Europe.

PTP's chief executive officer Mohd Sidik Shaik Osman said the direct fixed weekly calls of Maersk Sealand services at PTP demonstrated that direct calls to PTP would grow from now on.

"It is also a great start to the new millennium after only three months of operations since the official opening," PTP said in a statement.

The services would certainly be a boon to local Johor hinterland shippers who now had the option to load their cargo out directly via PTP and avoid the more expensive feeding and trucking option to Singapore, it added.

PTP is located at the confluence of international shipping lanes to the southwest of Johor and was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 13 to a 1000-strong crowd of local and international port, shipping and government sector representatives.

The Phase One development consisted of six container berths totalling 2,160 metres in wharf length.

The Phase One facilities included six berths of 2.16 km in length and a total area of 1.2 million square metres that was reserved for container handling and storage activities.

The port would be equipped with 18 Super Post Panamax quay side cranes with an outreach of 53 metres and 58 Rubber Tyred Gantry cranes.

Infrastructure support included a 5.4-km access road linking PTP to the Malaysia/Singapore Second Link expressway which was already operational and a 31.5-km rail link to the national rail grid at Kempas to be completed by January 2002.

The Full Phase One completion would see PTP's handling capacity at 3.8 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) per annum. -- BERNAMA

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