

14 APR 2000

PTP-MITSUI OSK

PTP SECURES MITSUI OSK LINES AS THE FIRST MAIN LINE OPERATOR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 14 (Bernama) -- The Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) secured its first main line operator, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL), which will begin a fixed weekly service from the port.

PTP announced in a statement here today that the Straits Express service will begin on April 30 2000 at PTP with MV Med Taichung beginning the first call.

MOL's Japan/Hong Kong/Straits weekly service will have the rotation of Tokyo to Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Hong Kong, Singapore, Port Klang and then PTP.

Apart from MV Med Taichung, MOL's vessels for the service are Mare Africum and Houston.

The call by MOL to PTP also signals a significant step in the establishment of wide connectivity and frequency to major destinations from PTP.

MOL in turn, is confident that PTP's strategic location, state-of-the-art facilities and systems and ease of procedures for clearance would translate into significant savings in terms of time and costs.

For PTP, this call is a prelude to an established network of feeder and direct calls.

These are vital and essential steps in PTP's goal to be a transshipment hub. Also, with a direct call, PTP hopes to increase marketing efforts to local Johor shippers.

This will in turn, create spin-offs to other facilities such as PTP's container freight station which has facilities for stuffing, unstuffing and consolidation and also development of PTP's distripark.

MOL and PTP are looking at this service as a start to a mutually beneficial and long-term relationship. PTP is also in the final stage of negotiations with other main line operators to call at PTP.

PTP, Malaysia's newest port, was officially opened by Malaysia's Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 13 March 2000.--BERNAMA

MR KTC