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Ling-Piracy

TRANSHIPMENT IN MELAKA STRAITS SAFE FROM PIRATES, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- Amid reports of increasing piracy in the Straits of Melaka, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today gave an assurance that transshipment activities in the straits are safe from the menace.

He said pirates were more inclined to attack small vessels compared to the big ships normally used in transshipment activities.

"Pirates are usually not found on the big ships because these ships are as tall as 10 storeys. And all these small pirates won't go to these ships. They only go for the small ones," he told reporters after chairing his ministry's post-cabinet meeting, here.

Dr Ling said Malaysia also had the Vessel Management Traffic System which enabled the authorities to monitor any piracy more efficiently.

On the MCA general assembly this Saturday, Dr Ling who is also MCA president, said the two-day meeting would focus on the challenges of globalisation and other related issues.

Dr Ling said other issues to be addressed were the challenges posed by the information age and the knowledge economy (K-Economy).

"Being the first AGM in the new millennium, we will focus on what are the new challenges facing the country, the region and the world and how we should respond to all these," he said.

He said the MCA had an important task to help the country and the government to overcome all these challenges.

"This is very, very important. We cannot be slow, otherwise we will be left behind," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open the general assembly at Wisma MCA here. It is expected to be attended by some 2,400 delegates.

-- BERNAMA

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