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Dr Ling: Bid to run privatised Indian ports

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysia is keen to bid for the privatisation of the Mumbai, Tuticurin, Cochin and Colachel ports in India.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the intention was made known to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his visit to the country recently.

Malaysian ports would be taking part in the tender exercise involving the Indian ports, he added.

"We see plenty of opportunity working with India, which is a rising economy in the world. Ports play an important role in international trade," said Dr Ling before chairing his ministry's weekly post-Cabinet meeting.

If the country succeeds in the bids, Indian ports could act as feeder ports for Malaysia, Dr Ling said.

Indian exports to countries like Australia and Singapore, for example, could be transhipped at Port Klang and vice versa.

Meanwhile, Dr Ling when asked to comment on a report that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would appoint a Chinese advisor, said the Prime Minister needed to be updated daily on news in Chinese dailies.

"It is a good move. A person who is proficient in Mandarin can give a true picture of the community's sentiments," added Dr Ling who is also MCA president.

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