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LIM-CONSUMPTION

FIND WAYS TO INCREASE CPO CONSUMPTION AMIDST SHIPMENT DISRUPTION

LANGKAWI, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said here today that industry players in the Malaysian palm oil sector should find ways to increase palm oil consumption following disruption in its shipment.

"Now is the best time also to look at other aspects such as replanting of old palm trees," he said after attending the weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Rumah Kabinet in Gunung Raya here.

Malaysia's palm oil shipments to Pakistan are currently facing disruptions due to shippers' reluctance to ply the Arabian Sea due to insurance companies' refusal to cover their ships amidst tensions caused by the US-led attacks on Afghanistan.

Dr Lim said that the Cabinet had given some directions "on how to go about it and make arrangements" to overcome the palm oil shipment disruptions to Pakistan. However, he did not elaborate.

He said that in order to overcome the problems, adjustments should be made to find other routes to ensure that the shipments could reach Pakistan and beyond.

"We have to look at getting the palm oil through war zone area or what the insurance called war race area," he said.

Last week, Dr Lim had said that the government would ensure an even flow of crude palm oil exports to Pakistan be maintained despite the disruption to certain shipping trades.

He has instructed the Malaysian Palm Oil Board to find ways to solve problems of shipping crude palm oil to Pakistan. -- BERNAMA

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