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Johor backs regional cargo hub project

Shahrum Sayuthi

JOHOR will give its full support to the idea of developing a regional cargo hub in the State as proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when tabling the Budget on Friday.

State Works and Public Utilities Committee chairman, Adam Abdul Hamid said the idea had been mooted previously, and several discussions had been held between the State and Federal Government.

"The fact that the Prime Minister had given it a special mention in the Budget 2002 makes us (the State Government) very positive that this idea will finally take off.

"We are prepared to give our full co-operation to any Federal Government initiative towards the realisation of this project."

Adam said the State Government had prepared an initial plan for the integrated transportation system necessary for the project.

The plan was for bulk cargo to be docked at the Port of Tanjung Pelepas and Port of Pasir Gudang, and later delivered to regional importers upon their orders.

The cargo can also be transported in smaller consignment via railway to the Sultan Ismail International Airport in Senai for export to the region.

Adam said the State Government only needed to implement the project with Federal allocation.

"The creation of the regional cargo hub is good for the State as well as for importers and exporters in other parts of the country," he said.