

16 MAY 2001

Ling-port

M'SIA INTERESTED IN INDIA'S PORT PRIVATISATION PROJECTS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- In view of the opportunity available to Malaysia, it is keen to take part in port privatisation projects in India, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today.

He said this had been conveyed to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who ended his four-day visit here today.

"We have indicated our interest in several ports in India such as Mumbai, Colathel, Tuticurin and Cochin," he told reporters at his office here.

Dr Ling said the ministry saw opportunities in cargo handling operations.

"Only six to 10 per cent of cargoes in Indian ports are in containers compared to 60 to 70 per cent in our ports," he said.

He said that landing rights for Malaysia Airlines (MAS) was also discussed with Vajpayee's delegation.

"I wish to record our thanks to the Indian government for giving MAS additional landing right from two to four times a week to New Delhi and four times a week to Mumbai," he said.

Dr Ling also said today's Cabinet meeting also discussed at length the plight of high achievers in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) who were not offered places in universities.

"Efforts are on going to place as many as possible (to local universities)", he said.

"But I'm happy to note that a lot of them have got scholarships to further their studies overseas," he said.

On a newspaper report that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad might appoint a Chinese press secretary, he said:

"Maybe Dr Mahathir needs someone fluent in Mandarin to monitor news reported in the Chinese newspapers."

--BERNAMA

NZ AHH ABG