

24/08/2001

Plan for free trade zone in Pulau Indah

Patvinder Singh

THE Government will acquire 404ha of land in Pulau Indah to set up a free trade zone (FTZ) to attract industries to use the area as their entreport for the region.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said in Putrajaya on Wednesday that with a free trade zone, industries could manufacture and export, or value-add and re-export, and also package for re-distribution.

"The FTZ in Pulau Indah will also help generate more containers for ports in the area," he said.

Ling said this at a Press conference at his office before his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

"While the acquisition is in process, we will be talking to industries for participation in the FTZ which will be Customs free.

"The purpose of the FTZ is specially to enhance the use of our ports."

He said the Government was always looking to acquire land near ports to increase the number of container throughput.

"The Government has already decided that land near to ports should be reserved for generating containers and not for housing estates or theme parks."

He said valuation of the land to be acquired in Pulau Indah was being done and that the decision to buy it was made a couple of months ago.

Ling, who had just returned from Yemen as part of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's delegation, said Yemeni Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs, Capt Saeed A. Yafai, will be visiting Malaysia for discussions on co-operation in ports and airports.

After Yemen, Ling made a stopover over in Dubai to discuss economic co-operation with officials of the Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone.