

22/09/2002

## Cutting red tape for exporters, importers

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KLANG, Sat. - The Customs Department will soon introduce an all-in-one form to enable freer movement of goods, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy said today.

He said with the introduction of the form, exporters and importers would no longer have to fill in many forms for goods to pass Customs.

At present, those who want to import goods will have to fill in the Customs' form one, for export (the Customs' form two) and to move taxable goods (Customs' form eight).

"Undoubtedly, this new system will save time by more than 50 per cent, reduce cost and avoid confusion with the implementation of the all-in-one form.

"It will simplify the Customs procedures as suggested in the Budget 2003," he told reporters after launching the Peninsula Customs Department Marine Officers Association annual general meeting here.

Also present were Deputy Customs director-general (preventive) Datuk Zaleha Hamzah and State Customs director Datuk Wazir Muaz.

The Budget 2003, tabled by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, had highlighted several suggestions to promote freer movement of goods through Customs, including the movement of taxable goods between free zones or for export which will be exempted from bank guarantee.

On the proposal that the Customs should no longer re-examine goods that had been inspected by other agencies, Chan said the suggestion was another effort to reduce red tape in Customs procedures.

"As a preventive measure, we will set up inter-ministries and departments for co-ordination and co-operation between the relevant agencies to monitor the movement of goods," he said.

Meanwhile, Zaleha said, the department would intensify checks on smuggling activities.

"We are improving and strengthening our intelligence ability by working closely with our counterparts locally and abroad as well as identifying new modus operandi used by smugglers," she added.

The Customs Department, she said, had stepped up its enforcement on several high-risk products which were likely to be smuggled in or out of the country, namely liquor, cigarettes, textiles and cars.

She also warned the people against trying to circumvent the rules and regulations as the department was ready to stop them.