

26 JUN 2002
LING-FREIGHTER
M'SIA TO LURE FREIGHT AIRLINES

PUTRAJAYA, June 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants to lure more freight airlines transporting cargo to use the KL International Airport (KLIA), said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik here today.

He said that the government has extended free landing and parking charges to freight airlines in an effort to attract such service providers.

"Air freight is growing very fast as people want goods to be transported faster. A total of 45 percent of air cargo are through air freighters worldwide and this figure was only supposed to be reached in 2010," he told reporters before chairing the ministry's weekly meeting here today.

He said that after the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the US, many passenger airlines were grounded, which resulted in cargo usually sent by passenger airlines, not being able to be transported.

"So now more freight forwarders are using full air freight to transport their goods so as to ensure their business obligations are made," he added.

Dr Ling said that he was in the midst of discussion with Corgolux, an air freight airline base in Luxembourg, for the company to increase its flights to the KLIA.

"I will also be visiting several cargo forwarders to explain our incentives to attract them to the KLIA," he added.

He said that although only two percent of the world cargo use air transportation, the value of the two percent constituted 35 percent of the total cargo business.

Goods usually transported by air cargo were electronics, garments, gold and jewellery, he said.

On another note, Dr Ling said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officiate the MCA annual general assembly on July 28. -- BERNAMA

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