

Malaysia

to use

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port

of Odessa

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will use the port of Odessa in Ukraine as the distribution centre for its palm oil and consumer products for Central Asia.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the port was strategically located and well equipped to serve landlocked countries in the region such as Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

“It is a big and a deep water port capable of accommodating huge ships,” he said after launching an academy at the party headquarters in Cheras yesterday.

He said the countries in the region were huge markets for other local products.

Lim, who was part of the delegation that followed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the former Soviet republic, said the Government had been looking for a suitable port to distribute palm oil to the region.

Among the ports considered, he said, was Bandar Abbas in Iran and Istanbul, Turkey.

Lim said demand for palm oil from the region was expected to increase to 500,000 tonnes a year in the near future.

He said Ukraine was already importing 100,000 tonnes of palm oil a year.

He said the Government was in the process of granting US\$100,000 (RM380,000) credit payment facility to Ukrainian palm oil importers.

“We are willing to provide similar facilities to other countries in the region,” he said, adding Kazakhstan also enjoyed the facility.