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# PM: M'sia to keep spending on ports

BY CELESTE FONG

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will continue to invest more in developing ports to support the growth of the country's shipping industry, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

He said that Malaysia had invested a lot in its ports as it had always been a trading nation.

"Our investment in our ports has

cost us a lot of money because you keep building bigger and bigger ships," he said when addressing guests at an International Maritime Night held in conjunction with the International Council of Containership Operators (ICCO) meeting here yesterday.

On the ICCO meeting held here for the first time, Dr Mahathir said it was significant as it marked recognition of Malaysia as a principal trade area.

In his speech, Transport Minister

Datuk Chan Kong Choy said Malaysia would continue ensuring container ships received the best service at ports.

"In this respect, the Government will continue pursuing the provision of port infrastructure and facilities on a supply-driven basis," he said.

Former Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, ICCO chairman Ray Miles and Transport Ministry secretary-general Datuk Zaharah Shaari were among those present.