

Halim Mazmin to invest in vessel to ship livestock

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BY ZAZALI MUSA IN PASIR GUDANG, JOHOR

HALIM Mazmin Bhd plans to invest between US\$10mil and US\$15mil in a used ship that it will convert into a vessel for the transportation of livestock cargo from Argentina, said executive chairman and managing director Tan Sri Halim Mohammad.

He said for that kind of investment, the company would be getting a 12,000-15,000DWT vessel capable of carrying 3,000 cattle or horses per consignment.

"We will probably be looking to own the vessel in the next six months to a year from now," Halim said after receiving the inaugural shipment of livestock from Argentina to Malaysia aboard the vessel MV Friesian Express chartered by the Halim Mazmin group at the Johor port on Sunday.

The vessel, carrying 1,420 cattle and 33 horses, left Buenos Aires on Sept 23 and sailed via the Cape of Good Hope through the Straits of Malacca.

Halim said the shipment of livestock from South America was a result of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision to promote South-South trade.

"Local livestock breeders and importers should look to South America as it provides a competitive alternative to importing cattle and horses from Australia," he added.

Halim said the company would help fur-

ther develop South-South trade by facilitating shipping services for Malaysian businessmen and their South American counterparts.

He said Malaysian exporters could use Argentina as an entry point to market their products to nearby countries such as Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.