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LING-VOLUME

GOVT EXPECTS CONTAINER THROUGHPUT TO HIT 10 MLN BY YEAR END

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Transport Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today says the government expects Malaysian container volume to hit 10 million twenty-equivalent units (TEUS) by end of 2003, amid strong marketing and promotional efforts undertaken by the Malaysian ports.

Dr Ling said with growing transshipment volume and the strong growth of the hinterland cargo, the throughput was expected to achieve beyond 15 million TEUS in 2005.

He said in the 8th Malaysia Plan, the government had further allocated funds to continue with our supply driven philosophy to expand the role of Malaysian ports in tandem with the country's economic objective.

"This is borne out of the fact that the Malaysian container volume has reached nine million total equivalent units (TEUS) in 2002," he said in his speech at the International Shipowners Association of Malaysia (ISOA) 2003 Gala Dinner Night here today.

Dr Ling added that this was evident from the ongoing developments taking place in Port Klang, Johor, Kuantan, Penang and Bintulu.

He said it was encouraging to note that Malaysia's two leading transshipment hub ports, Port Klang and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas had achieved strong growth.

For the year 2002, Port Klang achieved 4.53 million TEUS reflecting 20.6 percent growth whilst Tanjung Pelepas had 31.2 percent growth with 2.6 million TEUS.

He said the government under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has pushed very hard to ensure the success of Malaysia Inc. and the government would continue to encourage the private sector to play a bigger role in the future developments of Malaysia through further growth in the service sector.

Dr Ling added that the government appreciated the important role played by shipping lines as 90 percent of cargo volume is seaborne cargo. --

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