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'Black Sea port offers potential as distribution centre for our palm oil'

Sajahan Waheed

MORE Malaysian palm oil can enter Ukraine and its neighbouring areas including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, if they are exported via the Ukrainian port city of Odessa.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said on Saturday

that the Black Sea port has immense potential to become a distribution centre for Malaysian palm oil.

"The port which lies in the south of the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, can be used not only as a distribution point for Ukraine but also for the other neighbouring and CIS countries."

Dr Lim, who is also Gerakan president, said this after launching the party's Satu Academy at its headquarters at Wisma PGRM in Kuala Lumpur.

"I believe the port could be developed to handle imports of around 400,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes of palm oil in future."

He said this was the findings of his trip accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Soviet Republic from July 13 to 16.

"During our visit, we had a close look at the Odessa port and visited the palm oil storage facilities.

"We are willing to offer US\$10 million (US\$1 = RM3.80), in palm oil credit payment arrangement to the Ukraine importers and we believe that this would increase Malaysian palm oil imports by Ukraine," he said.