

First phase of logistics plan a success, says Liow

'Effort has handled 85% of issues identified'

PETALING JAYA: The first phase of a national masterplan to resolve the root problems in the logistics industry has been a success. Aptly named "Debottleneck" (2015-2016), the effort under the Logistics and Trade Facilitation Masterplan has handled 85% of the issues identified.

Disclosing this yesterday, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai (pic) said the remaining "action items" were being addressed and would be followed through into 2017.

He said more time was needed to complete the exercise as huge infrastructure development and amendments to the relevant laws and regulations were involved.

"Among the achievements are the repositioning of the Transport Ministry as champion agency for logistics and creating the National Logistics Task Force to drive and monitor the implementation of the masterplan," he said after chairing the third National Logistics Task Force meeting here yesterday.

Liow said that other achievements included setting up the national logistics data base to support evidence-based planning and streamlining processes and procedures related to licensing and air freight.

He said another was shortening the processing of landing permits for chartered flights. Road freight transport productivity to improve freight capacity of hauliers had also been improved, together with the quality of goods vehicle drivers, he added.

He said two initiatives – amendments to the Malaysia Shipping Ordinance and drafting of regulations on off-dock depots were in the final stages – and would be implemented once the relevant authorities approved it.

He said further infrastructure development would include improving last-mile connectivity to Port Klang and addressing bottlenecks at the Padang Besar Terminal.

He said that other ongoing efforts were an end-to-end Customs modernisation solution delivering a single window for goods clearance, reviewing the Malaysia Ship Registry Structure to increase the number of Malaysia-flagged vessels, and regulating warehouse and off-dock depots to promote the warehouse industry.

Liow also said that the Masterplan had achieved four low-hanging fruits from Phase 2: Enhancing Domestic Growth (2017-2019) and Phase 3: Creating Regional Footprint (2020 and Beyond).

These included improving the capabilities of logistics service providers to raise their standards and productivity; increasing compliance levels with trade partner market regulations to strengthen confidence of trading partners on local producers; leveraging

on the huge potential of e-commerce; and promoting efficient urban logistics to improve delivery and support the growth of e-commerce.

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