

'Govt yet to finalise decision on rail job award to Ircon'

SEPANG: The government is still in discussion about awarding the rail track-laying work for the Seremban-Port Klang line to India-based Ircon International Ltd.

Transport Minister Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai said the ministry had yet to finalise and make any decision on the project award.

"Malaysia will continue to improve the rail services in the country. We have the East Coast Rail Line project and the rail connections between Serendah to Port Klang.

We still need a new railway track to connect Seremban and Port Klang. "For now, we are still discussing whether or not we should award the project to Ircon.

"This is because it involves several agreements, including on palm oil exports from Malaysia to the Indian market," he said after the launch of the second phase of Mitsui Outlet Park KLIA Sepang, here, yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, during his visit to India recently, said the government was considering awarding a railway project connecting Seremban-Port Klang to Ircon.

He said, however, the government needed to set the terms that could be accepted and followed by both parties. In the same visit, Najib also expressed concerns about the 15 per cent rise in import duty on Malaysia's crude palm oil, from 15 per cent previously.

The prime minister said he had asked the Indian government to revise the rates as India was Malaysia's second-largest palm oil export market.

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