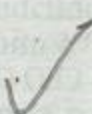


Northport has potential to become auto transshipment hub



PORT KLANG: Northport has the potential to become the region's top automotive transshipment hub following the government's exemption of the approved permit (AP) requirement on vehicles transhipped from local ports.

Port Klang Authority chairman Ean Yong Hian Wah said previously, vehicles entering the country were required to have an AP even though they were not bound for the local market.

"Due to the regulation, no ports, including Northport or Southport, had allocated any area as a vehicle transit site before the vehicles are sent to other countries," he told reporters after his working visit to the Northport here.

Also present was Northport (M) Bhd chief executive officer, Datuk Azman Shah Mohd Yusof. Yong said following the exemption, which started on April 1, Northport planned to turn the port into an automotive transshipment hub - a field which is currently dominated by Singapore.

"Currently, the Northport can only accommodate a maximum of 200,000 units of vehicles annually. However, they are planning to expand the space in the next few years," he said. Meanwhile, Azman Shah said the company planned to construct a multilevel car park - similar to the ones in Singapore - in order to accommodate more vehicles. "We may also start looking for land around the port that would suit the purpose," he added.

— Bernama