



## Najib: Government To Study Proposal On Sabah Port As Eastern Transshipment Hub



KOTA KINABALU, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Sunday gave an assurance that the government would study Sabah's proposal to make Sabah Port in Sepanggar near here, Malaysia's eastern transshipment hub.

He said the matter would be considered as it could also address freight charge issues in the state.

"To be like Port Klang, Sabah Port must be productive. But let us (government) study your proposal (on Sabah Port as eastern hub)," he said when officiating the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) 25th General Assembly here.

He was responding to LDP President Datuk Teo Chee Kang's proposal to elevate Sabah Port's status to be on par as Port Klang.

Najib also provided an assurance that the government would study price fixing of freight charges in Sabah, which many businesses in the state have blamed on implementation of the cabotage policy.

The policy was established to protect local shipping companies, but many businesses say it has resulted in a disparity in the price of goods between the Peninsular and Sabah, as well as Sarawak.

"The policy may not be the reason. But if local shipping companies are fixing prices, then they are the culprits," he said.

Earlier in his welcoming speech, Teo, who is also Sabah Special Task Minister, said Sabah Port could spur economic growth in the eastern region.

This, he said, was because, Kota Kinabalu was near to economic powerhouses in the east, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan, as well as being in the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippine East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

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