

NORTHPORT GETS CAPACITY BOOST



Acting Transport Minister, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (fourth from left), NCB Holdings Bhd chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid (second from left) and company executives at the launch of Northport's six new quay cranes. Pic by Asyraf Bokhar.

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PORT KLANG: Northport (Malaysia) Bhd expects its six new quay cranes, which it purchased for RM170 million, to contribute to higher productivity in its container handling operations. NCB Holdings Bhd chairman Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said the six cranes are capable of an outreach of 24 containers on the vessel, a good six containers longer than what the older cranes are capable of.

"These new features will greatly improve Northport's handling capacity and productivity of its wharf operations," Ahmad Sarji said at the launch of Northport's six new quay cranes here yesterday. Also present was acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein. With the additional cranes, the port operator's crane fleet for quay-side operations has been boosted to 32 units.

Ahmad Sarji said two of the six cranes, which arrived earlier this year, are being used to support operations at Container Terminal 2 (CT2). The remaining four cranes, which will be fully operational by next year, will be used for its CT4 operations.

"The purchase of the six quay cranes makes Northport the first in the region to acquire quay cranes equipped with sophisticated technology," said Ahmad Sarji.

Meanwhile, Northport chief executive officer Abi Sofian Abdul Hamid said with the new quay cranes, the port will be able to handle up to 5.6 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) as of January 2014. "The cranes will give an additional handling capacity of 600,000 TEUs," he said. Northport currently handles about three million TEUs and aims to increase container handling to 3.4 million TEUs next year, said Abi Sofian.