

Northport Invests In New Capacity for Continuing Sustainability

09 November, 2011 Chairman's Office

Statement by YABhg Tun Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid Chairman Northport on 9th November 2011

NORTHPORT INVESTS IN NEW CAPACITY FOR CONTINUING SUSTAINABILITY

Northport (Malaysia) Bhd has provided RM135 million under its immediate-term plan for the building of new facilities and acquisition of new equipment.

The largest portion from the approved sum will be spent on the development of a rubber-tired-gantry (RTG) supported container stacking yard that will replace one that was previously designed for operation using straddle carriers. The conversion will pave the way for higher density RTG-assisted stacking of containers. This parcel of work forms part of the phased programme to progressively convert the straddle carrier-based stacking yard behind Container Terminal 1 into an area for RTG operation.

Northport will increase its RTG fleet by acquiring a further 10 new units. The deal will see the arrival of the new Japanese-made machines in 2 batches of 5 each within a delivery period of 11 months.

In addition Northport will acquire a total of 61 new prime movers both for replacing ageing machines as well as for augmenting the existing fleet for improving efficiency and productivity. The purchase plan is based on a delivery period of 6 to 8 months.

The investment outlay is aimed at further enhancing the capacity and efficiency of the container-handling facilities operated by Northport in particular that of Container Terminal 1 which together with Container Terminal 3 services the larger range of container vessels calling at Northport. These initiatives are taken in parallel with the on-going work of constructing Wharf 8A on a site adjoining the existing Wharf 8. Work on the new wharf facility which will be operated as Container Terminal 4 when commissioned commenced in July this year and will be completed in 24 months.

Programmes are also in the pipeline for the upgrading of certain of the other container berths to push up their handling capacity in terms of accommodating vessel sizes as well as equipment capability installed thereon. The planned initiatives are aimed at providing both capacity improvement as well as assurance for continued sustainability in responding to the needs of customers on a long-term basis.
