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Inaugural Meeting Sets to Introduce of Logistics Productivity Nexus

PUTRAJAYA, 30 June 2022 – Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) organised its inaugural Logistics Productivity Nexus Governing Committee Meeting today at, Putrajaya. YBhg. Dato' Abdul Latif bin Hj. Abu Seman, the Director General Malaysia of Malaysia Productivity Corporation and YBhg. Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael Chairman of the Logistic Productivity Nexus (LPN) welcomed participants from the industry.

The Blueprint sets to build up the local logistic industry to take on a bigger market share and implement key performance index to achieve objectives in the next 5 years.

Appointment letters were awarded to the Nexus Governing Committee Members to officiate their commitment towards building up the nation's logistic industry with strong collaboration from government, academia and private sector.

"The blueprint serves as a game changer in productivity, with logistics as one of the important arms, to propel Malaysia to an advanced economy and inclusive nation," says YBhg. Dato' Abdul Latif.

He added that strong governance led by LPN and the industry is established to secure effective execution with strategic oversight by the Nation Productivity Council, and advisory and policy support by the Economic Planning Unit. Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and MPC will oversee the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the initiatives.

The role played by MPC in productivity enhancement initiatives constantly evolves according to the mandate given by the government and current industry needs.

LPN is one of 11 Productivity Nexus introduced by MPC to improve and accelerate Malaysia's logistic industry with an aim to make it a preferred logistics destination in ASEAN. Within its framework, MPC has Productivity and Quality programmes in the pipeline to enhance the know-hows in the industry and to encourage players to take on a more proactive role.

MPC too works closely with both the public and private sector to line up initiatives to further cement the standing of the logistic industries in ASEAN as well as to improve its overall productivity.

Two of Malaysia's ports – Port Tanjung, Pelepas Malaysia and Port Klang, Malaysia – are part of the Top 5 ASEAN ports. The committee, however, believes that there are still much room for improvement to be acknowledged as the preferred ASEAN logistics hubs.

“Malaysia has superb and comprehensive infrastructure for the logistic industry to thrive. We also house good connectivity via land, sea and air,” said YBhg. Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael Tio. According to him, Malaysia ranked 2nd place in logistics in ASEAN. However, he said, there are still many more aspects we need to improve in order to be acknowledged such as on the institutional and regulatory mismatch, bottleneck at borders, low value chain activities, insufficient and unskilled manpower, among others. “We will address these issues step-by-step and slowly transition the logistics industry to have world-class infrastructure while enhancing local knowledge to bring change within the local industry.”

This is where the LPN and MPC step in to look into areas that can be further enhanced and developed within the logistic industries. One of the key implementations that the Governing Committee will put in place is the introduction of Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for various stakeholders of LPN and execute strategies within the next 5 years.

“We will report our progress and results periodically so that stakeholders and industry players can keep track of the transformation. We hope that with progress, we are able to change the perception of both local and foreign players on our nation's logistics standing. Perhaps, the local industry too can embrace the change in order to elevate themselves to be on par with global players who have presence in Malaysia,” said Dato' Seri Dr Michael Tio. “Transformation is not immediate but we can grow together and achieve our KPI. At the same time, we grow and complement each other to propel our nation's logistic industries to greater heights,” he added.

In tandem with implementing KPIs, LPN will be working closely with various educational stakeholders by offering courses relating to logistics in order to build up the community of logisticians with better knowledge and world-class thinking. Institutions such as Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and University Malaysia Kelantan are engaged to be part of these initiatives.

Recommendations and suggestions have been put forth by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Malaysia (OECD). Some of them include:

1. Removing the authorities' power to set freight rates to ensure price competition.
2. Removing unnecessary criteria during license renewal.
3. Introducing clear requirements for applicants requesting a license for maritime transport to reduce costs and facilitate market entry.

With various initiatives in place for the years to come, it is projected that the logistic sector's contribution to GDP will increase to 6.5% by 2030, and total workforce of logisticians to hit 1 million at that same year.

Tamat.

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