

garbage disposal site at Kg Petagas to prevent foul smell polluting the environment.

He also directed the Council to resolve the issue of garbage being thrown into the Petagas River. He

sites at a few villages.

Sabah DAP regretted that residents in Kampung Tengah Padang are forced to put up with the uncollected garbage problem. Its local government and housing

into the Petagas River.

"There is a large beautiful sign board next to the dumpsite, saying "

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'Cabotage review shows sincerity'

KOTA KINABALU: Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri said the liberalisation of the Cabotage Policy since June 3 is a reflection of the Government's willingness to listen to the people.

In a statement, he said foreign shipping companies are now allowed conduct operation in selected ports namely Sapangar Bay Container Port, Kuching Port, Bintulu Port, Port Klang and Port of Tanjung Pelepas.

"This is proof that the Government is prepared to listen to the positive views from various parties to resolve the problem in the interest of the people and the nation's economy particularly the people in Sabah and Sarawak," he said when chairing the briefing by

Transport Ministry Federation of Sabah Manufacturers (FSM) at Marine Department office, here. He said even the views of the Malaysia Shipowners Association (Masa) has also been taken into consideration.

According to him, 50 per cent of domestic shipping transport services were handled by foreign shipping operators that involved 2,251 ships from the total 4,572 ships.

The decision to allow these foreign ships has caused freight cost to drop from US\$250 per container compared to US\$800 for destinations such as to Kota Kinabalu and US\$175 to Kuching previously.

Abdul Rahim said many quarters blamed the high cost of goods in Sabah and Sarawak

on the Cabotage Policy, which actually was to assist in the local shipping development.

"Actually, the elements of rising cost of goods were caused also by other factors such as inefficiency and low productivity of the local ports that operated less than 24 hours compared to Klang Port," he said.

Apart from that, he said the cost of land transportation or trucking cost, high agent cost and volatile bunker adjustment factor, also contributed to the high cost of goods.

Nevertheless, Abdul Rahim assured that he would be setting up a meeting with Masa soon.

He hoped consumers and shipping operators would strive to build understanding and assist one another for mutual benefit.

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