

Work as usual at Klang ports

BY [A. RUBAN](#)



PORT KLANG: Port operators at Northport say they are merely experiencing hiccups due to the continued strike by container truck drivers here.

A source from Northport said that although the strike was causing an influx of containers at the port, the problem was manageable.

“The protest has minimal effect on port operations as we have enough space to accommodate the containers that are not transported out,” she said.

A spokesman from Westport also told The Star that the protest had not disrupted operations.

Unlike Wednesday's protest where at least 1,000 truckers demonstrated, a smaller group showed up at a peaceful gathering yesterday.

During the five-hour protest, which started at about 10am, the truckers held banners urging the Port Klang Authority (PKA), Northport, shipping lines and depot operators to look into their plight.

The truckers, who complained about the delays they faced at the depots, also wanted operators to abolish depot gate fees or channel the charges to the respective shipping firms instead.

One of the protesters, S. Rayan, 32, said the protest would continue today if there were no solutions to address their grouses.

"We are not here to obstruct traffic or create chaos. We just want someone to look into our problem. Our basic salary is only RM900 and it is difficult to pay the RM15 or RM20 depot gate charge for each trip we make," he said.

PKA chairman Datuk Teh Kim Poo, meanwhile, said a depot would be set up to specially address the problem.

"This is our plan and the board members have approved it. PKA has ample land and we can set one up anytime, but we need to follow certain procedures.

"As of now, I have ordered depots operating in Northport and Westport to return to the status quo of charging the truck drivers the original depot gate charge of RM5," Teh said at a press conference yesterday.

Teh also said PKA and other related government agencies were still studying ways to come up with an amicable solution to resolve matters related to depot operators outside both ports.

"PKA can control depots in Northport and Westport but not the ones outside," he added.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2012/05/04/Work-as-usual-at-Klang-ports/>
