

# Port Klang gets approval for long-awaited container tariff hike

**PETALING JAYA:** Port Klang has finally won approval from the Ministry of Transport (MOT) to raise container tariffs, after lobbying for a revision for years, port operator Westports Holdings Bhd announced yesterday.

The last revision of the key container tariff items at Port Klang was about 14 years ago.

In a filing with the stock exchange, the port operator said the tariff revision will be implemented in two phases, whereby the first phase entails an average approximate increase of 15% on key container tariff items, particularly terminal handling charges effective Sept 1, 2015.

The second phase, meanwhile, will come into effect on Sept 1, 2018 for another average approximate increase of 15%.

The revised tariff covers container terminal handling charges for import, export, transshipment, shifting and re-stow, storage charge for container and handling charge for heavy lift or uncontainerised cargo.

Westports said the phased implementation is to ensure that sufficient notice is given to industry players to realign their processes.

"The tariff revision is crucial to ensure the future growth of Port Klang, which has always been supply-driven on terminal facilities and expansion," it noted.

Port Klang which is ranked the world's 12th busiest port in 2014, is the home of Westports and Northport.

Westports' share price rose as much as 25 sen or 5.97% to RM4.44 yesterday on this positive news. The counter, however, pared down some of its gain to settle at RM4.24, slightly up 5 sen or 1.19%.

NCB Holdings Bhd, Northport's parent's shares rose 14 sen or 3.47% to close at RM4.17 yesterday.

The container tariff revision was gazetted on June 12, 2015 and Aug 3, 2015. The letter of approval from MOT dated Aug 5, 2015 was addressed to the Port Klang Authority.