

PPC: Cargo movement at M'sia-Thai border not affected

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CONTAINER and cargo transportation along the Malaysia-Thailand border is still operating as usual during the lockdown, said Datuk Tan Teik Cheng.

The Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman said PPC had been working closely with Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) to ensure a smooth operation during this period of time.

“The port operation is considered an important service as we are still operating 24 hours a day.

“We provide all port and logistics services to meet the people’s needs during this critical period.

“The Customs Department and other government agencies such as the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (Maqis) will continue to assist industrial operators expedite the loading and unloading process of containers or cargo.

“Prior to the lockdown, PPC and PPCSB had held several coordination meetings and even set up a WhatsApp group led by PPC.

“Those in the WhatsApp group are made up of representatives of

various departments and port users.

“All parties can communicate effectively in the group whenever there are problems,” he said in a Facebook post after visiting the North Butterworth Container Terminal on Wednesday.

Tan said the lockdown would be slightly different from MCO 1.0.

“There is no ban on the movement of containers or cargo from Thailand to Malaysia.

“During MCO 1.0 last year, the Malaysia-Thailand border was closed starting March 18.

“Only certain types of goods were allowed to continue shipping on April 7 and the border was fully opened only on May 7.

“The current situation is also the same.

“All containers and goods from Thailand are unloaded at Padang Besar and Bukit Kayu Hitam before they are transferred to Penang Port by land and train.

“A total of seven train trips will arrive at Penang Port from Padang Besar every day,” he said.

Tan also urged port users and relevant parties to adhere to all necessary measures and comply with all SOPs set by the National Security Council.



Tan (middle) visiting the North Butterworth Container Terminal in Butterworth, Penang, on the second day of the lockdown.