

# Penang Port receives its first transshipment

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**BUTTERWORTH:** Penang Port, the oldest and longest established port in the country, has received its first transshipment at the North Butterworth Container Terminal (NBCT).

Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said with the port gazetted as a Free Commercial Zone (FCZ) in February, it could now cater for value-added services such as high-tech warehousing to spearhead economic growth in the northern region.

“Penang Port serves as the primary gateway to the northern region of Malaysia and southern Thailand, serving the Strait of Malacca and Bay of Bengal.

“It will now leverage on the FCZ status to reach greater heights and receiving the first transshipment marks a new chapter for Penang Port Sdn Bhd,” he said in his speech before witnessing the first transshipment being dropped off by the *Ever Chant* vessel belonging to Evergreen Marine Corp at the port yesterday.

The ship from Myanmar brought 667 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of shipment to NBCT and 223 of them were categorised as transshipment containers.



**New chapter for port:** (From left) Hng, PPC general manager Monaliza Suhaimi, Tan, Syed Mohamad Aidid and Sasedharan visiting the NBCT in Butterworth.

It will next head to Port Klang, then Laem Chabang Port in Thailand before ending its journey in China.

Tan said the FCZ status was in line with growth and development in the port industry in Penang.

“It allows us to provide facilities for operation in NBCT to focus on transshipment from Asean countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar.

“From research, transshipment

activities from the Bay of Bengal to Penang Port were identified as among our most lucrative opportunities.

“Last year, the Bay of Bengal throughput volume was estimated to be around 8.1 million TEUs,” he said.

Penang Port chief executive officer Datuk Sasedharan Vasudevan said with the port being declared as FCZ, it had put an end to

its wait for almost 30 years and described it as “historical”.

“Penang Port has applied for transshipment for the last 30 years. We are the last in the west coast bank to offer transshipment.

“Port Klang, Tanjung Pelepas Port and Johor Port are already doing it,” he said.

Sasedharan said for this year, the port had set aside a conservative target of 50,000 TEUs, subject to the global economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It will generate about RM10mil in revenue and in the next five years; we look forward to tranship 500,000 TEUs.

“Nevertheless, it is a good start in less than two months after being declared as FCZ.

“As a start, incentives will be given to clients for storage and special arrangements on handling,” he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Penang Port Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Syed Mohamad Aidid Syed Murtaza and Evergreen Line senior vice-president Hng Sau Yang.

Watch the video  
**TheStarTV.com**

