

Wee: Port operations nationwide increasing again

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PETALING JAYA: Transshipment, ship calls, export and import volumes at ports are generally increasing nationwide, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

He pointed out that port operations at Port Klang had returned to normal since the commencement of the conditional movement

control order (MCO).

He added that ports nationwide were no longer as congested as they were during the height of the MCO, as all logistics and manufacturing activities are now permitted to operate normally as long as they comply with existing Health Ministry guidelines on Covid-19.

"MCO or not, the Transport Ministry continues to monitor all ports and cargo handling facilities

to ensure that the economic supply chain is not inhibited in any way," Dr Wee said in response to queries from *The Star*.

In Penang, the backlog of orders restricted during the MCO has been cleared out of Penang Port.

Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said the backlog of orders was cleared in four phases – phase one (March 27-29), phase two (April 4-7),

phase three (April 13-15) and phase four (April 20-23).

"Basically, during the MCO period, the cargo-clearing exercise for all non-essential cargo was carried out and cleared to ensure that the port capacity is at its optimum level," he said, adding that operations in the PPC were running per normal.

Tan said the PPC was on the ground to monitor the Penang Port

from time to time and ensure that operations were running in adherence to the standard operating procedure.

To ensure smoothness in clearing cargo, Tan said port users needed to comply with the import and export regulations enforced by government agencies such as the Customs Department and Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services.