

JOHOR PORT HANDLES OVER 1M TEUs

Operator upbeat about growth prospects with global trade recovering gradually

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JOHOR Port Bhd handled more than one million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) last year despite challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chief executive officer Md Derick Basir said in a statement yesterday the port operator was pleased with the achievement as the shortage of containers in Malaysia and the region had affected the overall port business and related sectors.

Johor Port, a subsidiary of MMC Corp Bhd, posted a six per cent growth in the first quarter of last year before the implementation of the Movement Control Order in March.

With the reopening of most industries in May, Johor Port said the export volume regained momentum as manufacturers stepped up production.

Johor Port's improvement was mainly due to the strong support of gateway cargo.

It was able to secure four new

services last year, mainly for the intra-Asia region.

It also brought in Sealand to cater for short-haul cargo.

Apart from the traditional gateway business, Johor Port encouraged ad-hoc calls and mini transshipments that provided additional volume to the terminal.

Operational improvements contributed to better productivity and yard efficiency, resulting in a gross moves per hour of 22 cranes from 20 previously.

"We remain optimistic about our growth prospects as we have witnessed global trade recovering gradually.

"While we are expecting a long recovery period of six months to a year, Johor Port is committed to ensuring business continuity and for the port to be managed well in this volatile time," said Derick.

Johor Port has leveraged its strategic position as a major regional commodity hub which connects Asean to the intra-Asia region as well as its competitive edge in customer segmentation.

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Johor Port said ports and terminals could boost the country's economic development and were

crucial for connecting local communities to regional and global markets.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

expects maritime trade growth to return to positive territory and expand 4.8 per cent this year, assuming that the world economic output recovers.