

# Support for Miti as issuer of cert

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PETALING JAYA: The appointment of the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) as the sole issuer of Non-Prefessional Certificates of Origin (NPCO) has received broad support from business chambers and trade groups, who say the measure will help protect Malaysia's trade integrity, particularly with the United States.

However, industry leaders caution that the possibility of poor execution, lack of preparedness and insufficient infrastructure could result in bottlenecks and delays, potentially disrupting shipments and hurting exporters nationwide.

The Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MICCI) said the government's decision to centralise the issuance of the certificates will reinforce Malaysia's export credibility and protect legitimate trade flows, particularly to the United States.

"Exporters are advised to stay updated on the revised application procedures and to engage closely with the ministry to ensure full compliance with the new requirements," MICCI president Christina Tee said.

To support compliance and

reduce the risk of transhipment-related offences, MICCI is urging exporters to maintain

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clear, comprehensive and transparent supply chain records.

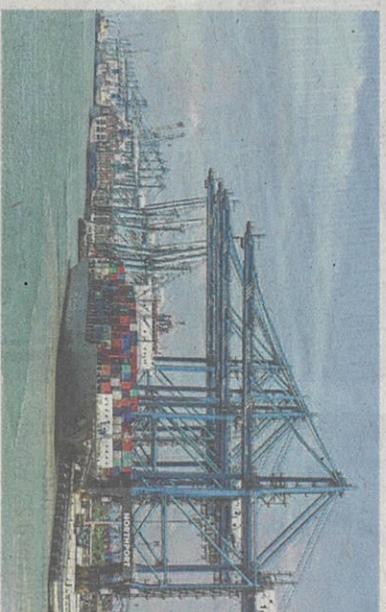
"Businesses must declare origin of products accurately and avoid any practices that could be perceived as relabelling or misrepresentation," she added.

She also encouraged companies to take part in awareness and capacity-building programmes organised by Miti and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, and to cooperate fully during verification and audit exercises.

However, Tee acknowledged that recent tariff measures imposed by the United States could present challenges by increasing operational costs and reducing competitiveness in the US market. "To remain resilient, MICCI encourages its members to diversify their markets, invest in validation procedures and to engage closely with the ministry to ensure full compliance with the new requirements," MICCI president Christina Tee said.

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Exporters are advised to fully cooperate with Miti for a smooth transaction.

"Execution is key, even with a good plan," he said, highlighting concerns from exporters in Johor, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak. The Associated Chambers of Commerce Industry of Malaysia (ACC) also called for a smoother transition as Miti takes over full responsibility on the issuance of the certificates.

Its treasurer-general D Koong Lin Loong proposed the chambers assist by reviewing and verifying applications before Miti's final approval to reduce the ministry's workload and ensure efficiency.

"We support the centralisation but caution against implementation too abruptly. Many exporters have yet to secure their certificates and a sudden change could lead to disruptions," he said.

Similarly, SME Association Malaysia president Chin Seong said Miti's ability to manage the transition effectively depends on robust digital implementation and timely support.

He urged continued collaboration with industry associations to ensure accessibility and a better understanding of business backgrounds.

"With every export requirement, this change improves every transaction. There must be a clear, efficient process to reduce delays. The success of this transition will become clearer in weeks ahead," he said.