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EMPLOYEES PERCEPTIONS OF PRIVATISATION: THE CASE OF KELANG CONTAINER TERMINAL BHD.

Kuppusamy Singaravelloo¹

The article examines the issue of privatization in Malaysia with focus on the privatization of a port administration, the Kelang Container Terminal (KCT) Bhd. The aim of the study is to assess the perceptions of the employees of the KCT on the privatization exercise and how it has affected them in terms of working environment, productivity and welfare.

The author argues that the success of privatization depends very much on the economy and the preparedness of workers at all levels to adapt to changes after privatization in order to effect the desired results.

I. INTRODUCTION

Prior to Independence in 1957, Malaya already had a number of public enterprises such as Malayan Railway, Central Electricity Board, port authorities and various local authorities. Concomitant with the growth in the national economy particularly after Independence, many other public enterprises were formed. The government's industrialization effort in the sixties provided an impetus to the formation of more public enterprises particularly to finance and plan development. However, new heights in the formation of public enterprises were reached after 1970 when the New Economic Policy (NEP) was implemented which saw more than 400 public enterprises being created in the 1970s and another 200 in the early 1980s (Snodgrass, D., 1994: 86).

¹ I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Klang Container Terminal management, especially Mr. Makshah Mohd. Ali and all respondents who made this study a success.