

DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED (ALL-KOTA STAR SELATAN) SAID THAT IF IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE AIRLINES TO DO ITS ACCOUNTING IN KUALA LUMPUR, THEN IT WAS ABOUT TIME THAT MALAYSIA HAD ITS OWN AIRLINE.

HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO A NEW ARRANGEMENT BY THE FINANCE MINISTER, ALL FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM NON-STERLING AREAS WOULD BE RECEIVED BY MALAYSIA INSTEAD OF BY ITS INTERMEDIARIES OUTSIDE MALAYSIA.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE ACCOUNTING OF THE AIRLINES WAS DONE IN SINGAPORE, THE NEW ARRANGEMENT BY THE FINANCE MINISTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO M.S.A.

+WE ARE THEREFORE NOT GETTING THE FULL BENEFIT FROM THE OPERATION OF THIS BI-NATIONAL AIRLINES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED: +IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE ACCOUNTING TO BE DONE IN KUALA LUMPUR SO THAT WE CAN PROFIT FROM THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS OF THE MSA, THEN I SUGGEST THAT IT IS TIME THAT MALAYSIA HAS ITS VERY OWN NATIONAL AIRLINE. -- BERNAMA MORE

+ONE OF THE BIGGEST BENEFIT OF SUCH A MOVE IS THAT THE KUALA LUMPUR-SINGAPORE SECTOR WILL NOT BE MONOPOLISED BY THE MSA AND THIS WILL RESULT IN MORE AIRLINES STOPPING IN KUALA LUMPUR.

+WE CAN THUS REAP A RICH RETURN NOT ONLY FROM THE MORE FREQUENT USE OF OUR COSTLY AIRPORT, BUT ALSO FROM TOURISTS WHO CAN BREAK JOURNEY IN KUALA LUMPUR.+

HE HOPED THAT THIS MATTER WOULD RECEIVE IT THE SERIOUS ATTENTION+ OF THE GOVERNMENT. -- BERNAMA MORE 1446