

Future role of Subang airport is under study

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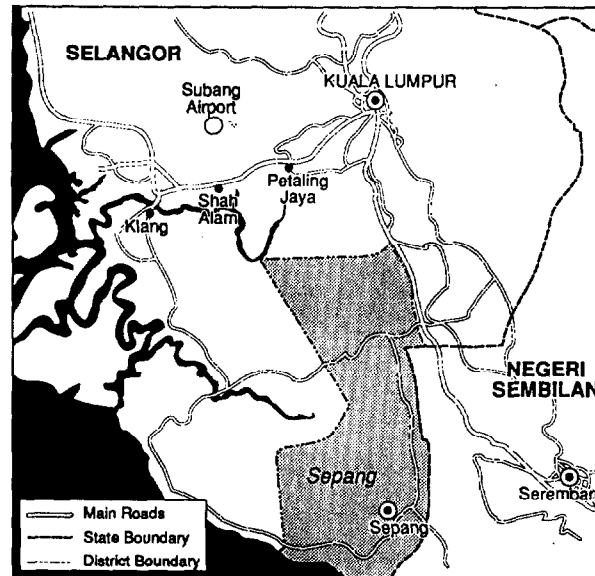
MALACCA, Wed. — The Subang international airport will be turned into either a military, domestic, charter service or cargo handling airport when the new airport in Sepang, estimated to cost \$20 billion, becomes a reality.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government was conducting a study to ascertain the status of the Subang airport when the new airport is completed.

He added that the Government decided to go ahead with the plans to build a new international airport in Sepang since Subang airport could not be expanded to cater for the increasing air traffic.

"According to our estimates, in the year 2000 the number of flights that the airport has to handle will be very high, thus requiring the building of another runway.

"We have the choice of having another runway in Subang or build a new air-



port. After studying the matter the Cabinet has decided that it would be better to build a new airport which could cater for the future needs of the country.

"The site of the new airport has been identified and gazetted. All land transactions in the area have been

frozen," he said adding that this was to ensure there was no land speculation.

He said this when responding to questions by reporters on his statement yesterday that the Government would build a \$20 billion airport in Sepang. The Prime Minister had earlier

chaired a Cabinet meeting at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel here. The Cabinet meeting is the third to be held outside the Federal capital after Langkawi and Kuching.

He added that a date to commence work on the project has not been decided.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet had approved a \$236 million allocation to the Malacca State Government to obtain water for the State from Sungai Muar.

He said the Government was satisfied with the development plans drawn up by the State Government and that several tourism and infrastructural projects had been implemented with State funds.

On his statement yesterday that the Cabinet has directed Government Ministries, agencies and departments to think of ways to obtain funds by charging for services which they now provide free, he said:

"It is not a big burden for the people. They cannot expect everything to be free. Sometimes the Government has to spend much money to provide these services."