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Ling-airport

MOBILE RADAR SYSTEM NEXT ALTERNATIVE FOR SUBANG AIRPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- The government is looking for a mobile radar system for the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to overcome the current flight delays caused by a fire that "knocked out" the terminal approach radar.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said that the installation of the mobile apparatus would however only be a temporary measure as an emergency alternative to overcome the delay until the damaged sophisticated electronic device was repaired.

The approach radar at Bukit Subang was damaged by fire two days ago. The RM16.5 million radar was installed in June last year.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the site, Dr Ling said the government was at present looking at various alternatives to obtain the mobile radar as it was finding some difficulties in getting one from Europe because of the summer holiday.

"At the moment we are consulting aviation experts on several options to obtain the mobile radar system following the difficulties in securing one from Europe," he said. -- more

AP RM

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Ling-airport 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said that only a small part of the system was affected by the fire which broke out at about 8pm last Saturday, resulting in flight delays.

However, he said, since it would take some time to repair the damaged device, the government urgently needed an alternative radar to ensure uninterrupted flight schedules.

He said that during the Thomas-CFS radar system normal operation, at least 18 flights were recorded per hour but the figure had been reduced to 10 flights per hour since the system went manual.

Dr Ling said that priority was being given to international flights to ensure transit passengers would be able to continue their journey without delay. Delay in transferring passengers from one flight to another may even affect other flights here and at other international airports.

He said that the passengers would undoubtedly be inconvenienced but the Air Traffic Control Unit was trying out all possible alternatives to overcome the delay. -- more

AP RM

16/08/14-38MST

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Ling-airport 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said that the government would request that local flights be rescheduled to late hours since the air traffic would be cleared of international flights from midnight to 6am.

The unit is controlling the air traffic (incoming and outgoing of flights) manually.

"It is difficult to go on manual, since we have to take a lot of safety measures...that is the reason we are looking for a mobile radar system," he said.

Ling said that according to the Fire Services Department, the Chemistry Department and the Police, the fire was caused by a short circuit in the air conditioning wiring system.

"The fire was detected by the Remote Control Monitoring System (RCMS) at 8pm and the fire was put out in 30 minutes without damaging much of the system," he said.

He denied allegations that the DCA had attempted to cover up the seriousness of the fire and damage. -- Bernama

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Ling-airport 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (Reopens E504)

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was disappointed over the incident, said that the relevant authorities should have taken appropriate measures to prevent fires at the airport.

"We should always conduct checks and should be prepared to take immediate action to curb fires," he told reporters here today.

The Prime Minister said that he was not aware of the fire until he read about it in the newspapers.

He declined to elaborate, saying that he would wait for the report from the relevant authorities. -- Bernama

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