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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROPOSAL FOR KERIAN

TAIPING, March 24 (Bernama) -- Perak will propose to the federal government to build an international airport in Kerian District near here to replace the Bayan Lepas International Airport in Pulau Pinang, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said.

"The Pulau Pinang International Airport could be relocated to Kerian to reduce congestions in the area and the land could then be utilised for more valuable purposes," he told reporters after accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a visit to the site of the Tasik Bukit Merah integrated town project yesterday.

He said the airport at Kerian would benefit the three northern states of Peninsular Malaysia as well as the Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

According to him the three states of Perak, Kedah and Pulau Pinang wanted a new international airport be set up.

"If the new airport is in Kerian, areas around Kubu Gajah, Selama, southern Pulau Pinang and Kedah can be jointly developed," he said.

Ramli said it would also be less costly to build the airport in Kerian because of cheaper land and construction materials, apart from its well developed infrastructural facilities.

He said Perak also suggested that the new Banting-Taiping highway be extended to Selama and the state's boundary with Kedah. --Bernama

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