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Airport-VIP

MINISTRY ACTS TO STOP ABUSE OF VIP FACILITY AT AIRPORTS

PULAU PINANG, April 4 (Bernama) -- The Transport Ministry is taking steps to put a stop to the misuse of VIP rooms at airports, Deputy Minister Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said today.

He said the ministry would be meeting the airport authorities to streamline regulations on the use of the VIP rooms.

The ministry would also meet the Sabah government on the matter because it had jurisdiction over the running of airports in the state, he told a press conference after attending the opening of a road safety seminar here.

He was not sure whether Malaysia Airports Berhad (MAB) would be asked to take over management of airport VIP rooms in Sabah or that the state government had to follow MAB guidelines.

"I feel that other airports, especially in peninsular Malaysia, are not facing problems and the best example is Subang," he said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the usage of airport VIP rooms would be reviewed to prevent the facility from being abused.

Such concern on the management of VIP facilities at airports came in the wake of Sabah businessman Datuk Alfred Chin's arrest in Taiwan for alleged gun running. Chin was a user of the VIP room at the Kota Kinabalu Airport.

Ali said people eligible to use airport VIP rooms were heads of state, federal and state leaders, elected representatives, state executive councillors and heads of department.

"Businessmen are not categorised as dignitaries but if state governments want to accord investors the privilege, they can include their names as state guests and inform the airport management accordingly," he said.

He said VIPs were not exempted from security checks at airports.

Ali also said legal amendments to allow for drivers who had just acquired their licences to be put on a two-year probation would be tabled in Parliament either this July or August. -- Bernama

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