

13/06/1997

Anwar: Effects to be known after feasibility study

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today the effect of the proposed international airport, to be built on a man-made island in Kedah, will only be known after a feasibility study of the project is completed.

He said the Economic Planning Unit had been directed to complete the study, which would determine among others its effect on other airports like the Penang International Airport.

"The study will look into the overall impact of the northern region requirements," he said.

The completion of an Environment Impact Assessment study for the project was also necessary before the implementation of the new airport could be looked into, he said after the launching of the Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital education and building fund.

It is learnt the EIA is being prepared by the National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia and the Department of Environment on behalf of the Kedah Government.

Asked whether views of Malaysia Airlines would be sought, Anwar said they would be taken into consideration.

On whether the project had been given the go-ahead as announced by Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, Anwar said the site had been identified but "(They) have to look at all factors."

Yesterday, Sanusi said a new international airport would be built off the Kuala Muda coast about 140km from Alor Star.

The airport will be the second international airport in Kedah after Langkawi.

Sanusi said the Federal Government had approved the project, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted it to be expedited.

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