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KLIA parking facilities ready by year-end, says Ling

SEPANG, Mon. - Parking facilities at the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport will be ready by year-end, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the "favourable weather" over the past weeks had allowed the contractors to catch up with the development of the short-term parking facilities.

"The development of the long-term parking facility, meanwhile, is on schedule. From the tour just now, we can even see that the landscape surrounding the area is taking shape," he told reporters after visiting the KLIA site.

Dr Ling, who was accompanied by the airport officials, had earlier visited the delay-prone short-term and long-term parking facilities, the Runway 1 and the advanced cargo complex at the Malaysia Airlines Flight Campus.

He visited the new airport site three weeks ago.

Dr Ling said the short-term parking facility encountered difficulties several months ago due to manpower limitations and unfavourable weather conditions.

"However, we experienced a good season after that and much of the delay has been overcome.

"As far as the short-term and long-term parking facilities are concerned, they are on schedule."

The long-term and short-term parking facilities are expected to be ready by the end of the year.

They will provide a facility for 12,600 units of vehicles, as well as a check-in centre and a bus depot so that passengers can go directly to their respective boarding gates.

On the progress of the runway's development, Dr Ling said Runway 1, which has been installed with grooving lines, had been completed.

The safety lines which was proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will enhance friction and water flow from the pavement.

Dr Ling said the development of the advanced cargo centre at the Malaysia Airlines Flight Campus was on schedule. He expected it to be ready by December.

"I am satisfied with the development. Many aspects of the airport have improved. "

On the exact date of KLIA's commercial opening, Dr Ling said this was difficult to determine until the airport began conducting its commercial flight trials.

"The critical areas should be ready by September.

"From October to December, we will be able to see some test trials. Then only we can decide the exact date of commercial opening of the new airport."

Dr Ling added an aircraft would be brought to the new airport on Sept 15 to perform a real time testing on landing, taxiing to hangar and take-off.

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