

19 JUL 1997

Aviation

LANGKAWI TO EMERGE AS MALAYSIA'S MAJOR AVIATION CENTRE

LANGKAWI, July 19 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) has allocated a 80ha site near the international airport at Padang Matsirat here in line with the aspirations of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to make this island a major aviation centre in the country.

"Investors are welcomed to set up operations from production of components to the assembling of aircraft at the new site," LADA General Manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib told reporters after inaugurating the air cadets of the Kelab Rekreasi Udara Langkawi (KRUL) here today.

He said the setting up of the aviation industry would also be in inconsistency with efforts by KRUL to train school-leavers on various skills including aircraft maintenance.

For a start, he said 30 students from Sekolah Menengah Kedawang had been selected as air cadets where they would also be given the option to become trainee pilots.

KRUL was launched was launched by Dr Mahathir in June, 1995 and at present it has about 100 members. Dr Mahathir is also patron of the club.

The made-in-Malaysia Eagle X-TS aircraft and three others belonging to the club performed flight demonstrations at the ceremony. Eagle X-TS was assembled in Australia but the components were produced in Composite Technology City Batu Berendam, Melaka.

Abdul Halil also said LADA would form a Search and Rescue Unit for the island, a major tourist destination in the country.

"The unit will handle operations at sea while for aerial search, we'll ask the Department of Civil Aviation and Malaysia Airports Berhad," he said.

He said LADA would also set up a paramedic unit. --BERNAMA
NH ABG