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Mahathir-Aircraft

MAHATHIR OFF TO LANGKAWI ON AIRASIA'S NEW AIRCRAFT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took off on a special flight to Langkawi today on board AirAsia's new Boeing 737-300, shortly after blessing the aircraft at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, near here.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad, chairman of DRB-Hicom Berhad which owns AirAsia.

The prime minister performed the "Tepung Tawar" ceremony to bless the tourist class 148-seater aircraft, which was leased from GE Capital Aviation Services Ltd of the USA, at the tarmac outside the Bunga Raya VIP lounge at Terminal One.

Dr Mahathir will return to Kuala Lumpur tonight on the same flight.

The Boeing 737-300 is the second aircraft for AirAsia, Malaysia's second national air carrier, which began operations last November.

According to a company statement, its inaugural flight to Pattaya took off on Nov 16. AirAsia also flies to Taipei via Kota Kinabalu.

"With the arrival of the second aircraft, AirAsia is looking into expanding its operation to other destinations which are being finalised with the higher authority," the statement said, adding that an announcement would be made once the routes are finalised.

The statement added that during this double festive season AirAsia was also mounting extra flights to Kota Baharu and Kota Kinabalu. -- BERNAMA

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