

15 SEP 1997

KLIA-Test

MAHATHIR, CABINET MINISTERS WITNESS TEST LANDING AT KLIA

SEPANG, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- A Malaysia Airlines (MAS) Boeing 747 aircraft touched down at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) here this morning, marking the first landing at Asia's newest airport which began its basic trial today.

The test landing at Runway One of the RM9 billion airport was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet ministers.

There was a round of applause as the aircraft, piloted by Capt Samsudin Zainol Abidin, assisted by Capt Arshad Abu Bakar, touched down at 10.26am.

Dr Mahathir and the Cabinet ministers will also observe the progress of works at the airport which is expected to start commercial operations during the first quarter of next year.

The MH 1509 flight took off from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang at 10.05am.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said on Aug 14 that the on-schedule installation of the KLIA's Total Airport Management System (TAMS) allows the airport to conduct basic trials as planned today.

TAMS is a sophisticated data-sourcing and processing system that interfaces with and integrates the various electronic sub-systems within the KLIA, thus creating a single point for the entire airport operations and management.

The system interfaces with and intergrates 29 airport sub-systems for crisis control, flight information display, gate collection, card access, meteorological, air traffic management and baggage handling.

Dr Ling said the first trial run would be followed by advance trials on Dec 15.

Located on a 100,000sq km site, some 50km south of Kuala Lumpur, the KLIA will be able to accommodate 25 million passengers yearly upon its opening day and up to 60 million by the year 2020.

It will have two main runways each measuring 4,000 metres by 60 metres.

Two car parks at the airport would have a total of 12,600 bays and of these 6,300 bays would be for short duration parking.

The KLIA will have an "Airport in the Forest" and "Forest in the Airport" effect with landscapes surrounding the terminal and satellite area. --BERNAMA

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