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Parliament-Mahathir (MAS)

MALAYSIA AIRLINES READY TO HELP GOVT FACE CURRENCY DECLINE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had received a letter from Malaysia Airlines Executive Chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli stating MAS' readiness to help the government face problems arising from the fall in the ringgit's value.

"I have received a letter from Tajudin Ramli and what he stated was during this current situation, MAS was ready to hand over the company's income to the government," he told the Dewan Rakyat.

The Prime Minister said this when replying to Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka) who asked whether Tajudin proposed to sell back MAS to the government.

"This is an offer from Tajudin (to hand over the MAS income to the government) and differs from what the member of Kota Melaka said," the Prime Minister added.

"This is one person (Tajudin) who has a big heart, who wants to help the government. Let's not say to him that since he feels MAS is going to make losses and so he wants to hand it back to the government. He did not say that, I have his letter with me," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said probably MAS' foreign exchange earnings could be used by the government to fight currency traders who lowered the value of the ringgit.

"This is because MAS has foreign dealings and is paid in foreign currency and hence the money can be used by the government to buy back ringgit so that its value will not fall," he added. --BERNAMA

NZ AAM