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MAS-Kuwait

MALAYSIA AIRLINES SEEKS TO RESUME SERVICE TO KUWAIT

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KUWAIT, April 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) is in the initial stage of discussions with Kuwait Airways to resume commercial air service between the two countries.

MAS chairman Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli said today cooperation between the two airlines came to a halt during the Gulf War in 1990.

MAS wants to resume this cooperation and hopes it would not be limited to the Kuwait sector alone but also include other areas like Cairo, he told reporters here.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malaysian and Kuwaiti governments had agreed during bilateral talks that the cooperation between the two airlines be resumed.

Tajuddin said MAS would think of ways to ensure that the cooperation would be profitable to the airline.

"Kuwait is no longer as important as it was before the Gulf War, compared to Dubai which offers a more profitable opportunity due to its location and the response of world tourists to that area," he said.

He added that it might take some time for air service between Malaysia and Kuwait to resume because Kuwait Airways was currently facing a shortage of aircraft after the war with Iraq almost devastated the country.

Tajuddin, who is leading a delegation of businessmen to Kuwait, said a seminar would be held here to help Kuwaiti businessmen identify investment opportunities in Malaysia.

He said Bank Bumiputera Malaysia Berhad dan Bank Islam Berhad had been invited to organise the seminar.

On the Indian government's move to prohibit foreign airlines from owning stakes in the country's domestic airlines, Tajuddin said it would not affect MAS.

"We plan to channel our investments in India through Malaysian Helicopter Services and go into other areas that will bring benefit to us," he added.

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