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Malaysia Airports gets to say who does business

Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysia Airports Berhad will have the final say in who gets to do business at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport once it is completed next year, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"Malaysia Airports has the right to decide as they have the record of occupants at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang.

"They (Malaysia Airports) know who has been paying rent promptly and abiding by all business procedures. I am sure they (Malaysia Airports) want good customers," he said after opening the 41st presidents' assembly of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines.

Yesterday, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the State Government would ask Malaysia Airports to allocate sufficient space at the KLIA in Sepang for Selangor businessmen.

He had said the State Government would also ask developers of other significant projects in the State to do likewise.

Abu Hassan said he had received complaints about local businessmen facing problems in acquiring space at the KLIA and other big projects.

He instructed State Entrepreneur Development Committee chairman Datuk Zainal Dahalan to meet the relevant parties as soon as possible to discuss the matter.

Abu Hassan said the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure had agreed that businessmen from Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Malacca should be given adequate business space in all the projects.

"However, the offers are limited only to a specific group, so we will ask that more opportunities be given to local businessmen, especially those representing small and medium-scale businesses," Abu Hassan had said.

Dr Ling said he was confident Malaysia Airports would examine the request by the State Government.

Earlier, Dr Ling said it was important that the airline industry respond to changes such as advances in aircraft technology, avionics and increasing competition.

"We in Malaysia have another imperative and one that we owe to our Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad), a powerful and compelling Vision 2020 to bring this country to fully developed nation status in the next century."

Dr Ling said the Malaysian Government had identified aerospace and aviation as being critical areas in its long-term strategic planning.

"Globalisation will bring a growth in air traffic of an unprecedented magnitude and much of that growth will be in this region," he said, adding that the Asia Pacific share of the airline business would exceed 50 per cent of total international scheduling.

He added that more than a quarter of the 15,000 new aircraft scheduled for delivery by the year 2014 at a total cost of US\$1 trillion (RM3.41 trillion), would be destined for airlines under the AAPA.

The AAPA speaks with a common voice for Asia-Pacific carriers when dealing with governments, aircraft manufacturers, airport authorities and other organisations on matters affecting the efficiency and profitability of its members.

Also at the opening of the assembly were AAPA chairman Datuk Wan Malek Ibrahim, who is also Malaysia Airlines managing director, AAPA director

general Richard Stirland, Malaysia Airlines chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli and heads and representatives of the respective airlines under the association.

The AAPA comprises 19 airlines in the Asia Pacific region, namely Air New Zealand, Air Niugini, All Nippon Airways, Ansett Australia, Asiana Airlines, Cathay Pacific Airways, China Airlines, DragonAir, Eva Air, Garuda Indonesia, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Malaysia Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Qantas Airways, Royal Brunei Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways International and Vietnam Airlines.

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