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Anwar-Airport

NO PROPOSAL TO CLOSE BAYAN LEPAS AIRPORT

SUNGAI SIPUT, Aug 16 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today the government does not propose to close the Bayan Lepas airport in Pulau Pinang in the near future.

He said this was evident from the recent announcements by the Transport Ministry and Malaysia Airport Bhd on expansion plans for the airport.

"Hence, the question of whether the airport will be closed does not arise in the near future. In fact we believe that in the next two years its operations will remain busy like now," he told reporters after launching the twinned orang asli and traditional village in Kampung Bawong, about 30km from here.

Anwar said reporters had misquoted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when they reported that the Bayan Lepas airport would be closed when the northern region airport was ready.

"The airport will only be closed when necessary," he said.

Anwar said the government would study the need for the airport from time to time before making a final decision.

He also said that the government was studying a counter proposal by the the Pulau Pinang government on the site for the second bridge linking the island to Seberang Prai Utara.

"We want to ensure that when the bridge is built, it will benefit the state government in terms of saving time and facilitating travel.

"We want to ensure that the construction of the new airport will directly benefit Pulau Pinang, especially Seberang Prai Utara, in terms of transportation from the new airport to the island," he said. -- BERNAMA

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