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Ling-Airlines

M'SIA REQUESTS FOR MORE FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has requested to have more flights to Hong Kong when the new Chek Lop Kok International Airport there begins operations next April.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today the present one-runway Kai Tak Airport had limited slots which made it difficult for other airlines such as Malaysia Airlines to add more flights to the former British colony to cater to the growing demand.

"We have agreed to discuss the possibility, and with the opening of the new airport, we think this is the right time to ask them to increase their capacity to boost the tourism industry for the benefit of both countries," he said.

He told reporters this after a 15-minute meeting with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa during which they discussed various issues including trade and industry and economic relations.

Dr Ling said that there were about 19 to 20 million passengers from all over the world using the Kai Tak Airport yearly.

He also said that the ministry was waiting for the nod from the Hong Kong government on a proposal from STAR Cruise Sdn Bhd, a holiday cruise company in Malaysia, to make Hong Kong one of its stops.

"We discussed the improving relations in shipping between the two countries and he has also agreed to look into the request," he said.

Tung and his four-member of delegation arrived here today for a two-day working visit before proceeding to Singapore.

Earlier, he called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. -- BERNAMA

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