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PM to witness KLIA test-landing today

THE test-landing to be carried out at the RM9 billion Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) by the first commercial aeroplane is scheduled for today, but the worsening haze condition raises the possibility that it will be postponed due to the poor visibility.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Cabinet ministers are scheduled to witness the test-landing of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 747 during their site visit there to see the development progress.

The test landing is the highlight of the basic trial run of the airport which is scheduled to be in operations some time during the first quarter of next year.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had a month ago said that although the airport would be ready technically by September 15 and its total airport management system would be in place by December 15, the Government had been advised by experts to allow for a few months of testing and monitoring of the various systems. He said the experts were of the opinion that it would be best to have at least a three-month trial period to test and monitor the efficiency of all systems involved in aircraft landing, baggage-handling, catering and security.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had said that the test trials are to enable Malaysia Airlines to check the time taken for its planes to land and taxi from the runway to the apron and hangar.

The results, he said, will then be filed with the International Air Transport Association for time slots.

KLIA Bhd coordinator for the trial run Ambrin Buang had last week said that the haze would not pose any problems or delay the scheduled test run.

However, he said that the final decision to land would be made on the day itself, depending on the situation with safety as a priority.

To this end, KLIA Bhd is working closely with Malaysia Airports Bhd, MAS, the Department of Civil Aviation and the Meteorological Services Department.

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