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All systems in place for full scale operations

MALACCA, Sun. - Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said today all systems at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang were in place for full commercial operations end of this month.

"There should be no technical hitches as everything is in order. There are of course some minor hiccups but on the whole, the airport is ready.

"We do not anticipate any major problem for this state-of-the-art airport to go into full-scale commercial operations," Mohd Ali said when met today.

He said weaknesses, if any, would be overcome before the Commonwealth Games in September.

"We have about two months to identify weaknesses before the start of this world-class event. This should give us ample time to address the problems."

Mohd Ali said the ongoing trials had also enabled the airport management to gauge its operations performance and overcome weaknesses.

The first flight trial at the airport was conducted last month when 340 pilgrims on flight KT35 arrived at 2.25pm.

The airport was originally scheduled to begin operation in early June but this was deferred due to several reasons, including the recent forest fires near the airport.

The Transport Ministry has formed a special committee, comprising KL International Airport Bhd Malaysia Airports Bhd, Department of Civil Aviation and the ministry's top officials to organise the ceremonial opening by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on June 27.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver the keynote address at the ceremony.

Mohd Ali said 100 personnel would man KLIA's control tower.

Of this number, 76 are experienced staff and the rest new recruits.

He said 40 control tower personnel underwent a two-week training at Munich Airport, Germany, recently.

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