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KLIA-Preview

150 SEPANG VILLAGERS TO LAND TO MARK KLIA OPENING

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- The KL International Airport (KLIA) will be opened by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar in Sepang tomorrow night and soon after a Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 will land with 150 villagers on board.

The historic landing of the B777 Super Ranger aircraft with the 150 kampung people from the Sepang area will be witnessed by Tuanku Ja'afar, the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Cabinet Ministers who are among the 1,400 guests invited to the opening of the airport about 50KM south of here.

The two-hour ceremony will be carried live over TV1 from 8.30 pm. The ceremony will also be carried by several radio stations including the overseas service of RTM "Voice of Malaysia" which can be received in Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Australia as well as Arab countries.

Dr Mahathir and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik will each deliver a speech before Tuanku Ja'afar opens the airport that will commence full operations on Tuesday.

A fireworks display and laser show are among the highlights of the opening ceremony at the open air piazza in front of the main terminal building.

The RM10.5 billion state-of-the-art airport was completed in a record time of 36 months.

The project was managed by KL International Airport Bhd (KLIAB). At its peak, some 25,000 workers were involved in building the airport that sprawls over a 10,000-hectare area that was formerly a rubber and oil palm plantation (Perang Besar Estate).

KLIA is part of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), an information technology hub dedicated to the development of multimedia products and services.

It will take over as the main gateway to Malaysia from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (SAAS) airport on Tuesday.

The SAAS airport will be closed at 12.45 am on Tuesday in a simple ceremony.

Dr Mahathir will witness the arrival of the last of the airport equipment from Subang before boarding the first aircraft out of KL International -- a domestic flight to Langkawi at 7am.

While Malaysia Airlines will shift its entire operations to KLIA, several domestic airlines will still use the SAAS.

After several phases of development, KLIA will ultimately handle 100 million passengers.

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