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ANY DELAY IN KLIA'S SECOND PHASE WILL NOT BE LONG, SAYS PM

SEPANG, June 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that any delay in the construction of the second phase of the KL International Airport (KLIA) will not be long.

"It may or may not be delayed because it is beyond our control," he told reporters after a tour of the new airport.

He was asked whether the construction of the second phase, which involves a second terminal for the airport, might be delayed due to the present economic situation.

Dr Mahathir said it would be pointless to build another terminal if there were no people using the airport.

"I think even if there is a delay, it won't be long," he added.

The cost of the entire KLIA project is RM9 billion. It will start operating on June 30.

Located about 50 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur, the state-of-the-art airport is a four-phased project designed to cater for the passenger and air cargo demands of Malaysia's major international gateway for the next one century.

According to plans, the second phase of development envisages facilities which will increase the airport's capacity to accommodate 35 million passengers by 2008 while the third phase will cater for 45 million passengers by 2012.

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