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Call to consider resumption of flights to Vientiane

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MALAYSIA Airlines will be asked to study the possibility of re-introducing operations into Vientiane in Laos which was suspended since early this year.

This was one of the outcome of the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Laotian counterpart, Sisavath Keobounphanh, in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in a briefing for reporters after a delegation meeting which followed after the bilateral meeting, said Sisavath had requested that Malaysia Airlines resumes services to Vientiane.

This, according to Sisavath, would enhance greater cooperation and relations, especially in boosting trade between Malaysia and Laos.

"In fact, the Laotian Prime Minister said the facilities at the Vientiane airport have improved and Malaysia Airlines can use a smaller aircraft for its operations.

"This, however, has to be studied by Malaysia Airlines first because the national carrier would certainly would not want to lose in terms of getting passengers ... the load factor is the main concern of Malaysia Airlines," Abdullah said.

Malaysia Airlines launched its first flight to Vientiane on July 1 1996.

However, Malaysia Airlines suspended services into the city early this year.

It is one of five destinations which the national carrier has stop operating into due to, among other things, poor load factor.

The others are Madrid, Macau, Davao and Pusan.

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