

26/06/1998

PM to be on first flight out of KLIA

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SEPANG, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be on board the first flight out of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport when it begins commercial operations on the morning of June 30.

The Malaysia Airlines B777 aircraft, flight MH1432, is scheduled to take off for Langkawi at 7am.

It is understood that Dr Mahathir will stay in Langkawi until about 5pm before flying back to Kuala Lumpur.

A Malaysia Airports Berhad spokesman said today Dr Mahathir would also be at KLIA to witness the all-night operation to transfer equipment from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang to KLIA.

The transfer exercise, nicknamed "The Big Move", involves the shifting of essential equipment and any aircraft remaining at the Subang airport.

"Dr Mahathir is scheduled to arrive at KLIA about 10pm, when he will watch a convoy carrying equipment from Subang reach KLIA," the spokesman said.

"He will also be staying at the hotel (located in the satellite building which services international flights) that night."

Believed to be the biggest such move ever in the country, the exercise will involve more than 1,600 lorries and must be completed within five hours and fifteen minutes before commercial operations in KLIA kick off.

The move will also largely mark the end of operations in Subang, except for domestic flights conducted by local airlines Berjaya Air, AirAsia, Transmile and Pelangi Air.

Meanwhile, the last passenger trials involving about 1,000 volunteers from several tourist agencies, accounting bodies and hotels were also held at KLIA today.

The trials saw the "passengers" go through the routine of checking into or disembarking 49 simulated international and domestic flights, 20 arriving and 29 departing.

Some of the passengers started their journey by boarding buses at the hockey stadium on Jalan Duta to test the efficiency of the dedicated bus service to KLIA.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong will officially launch KLIA in a glittering ceremony on Saturday night.

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