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Ling-Airport

SULTAN ISMAIL PETRA AIRPORT EXPANSION THIS YEAR

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- The federal government has approved the expansion works and the upgrading of facilities at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Kelantan and the project will start this year.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Leong Sik said today the airport would be able to accommodate 1.5 million passengers instead of the current 600,000 when the expansion was completed.

"The costs have yet to be fixed but the plans for the expansion and the facilities to be upgraded are ready," he told a news conference at the airport, here.

The 50-year-old airport handles 12 flights daily and 500,000kg of cargo annually.

Dr Ling said the expansion would provide more comfort to passengers besides meeting the high passenger capacity up to 2020.

He said the expansion project had been agreed to by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and would not be affected by the current economic slowdown.

"The passengers' comfort is important, hence we defer other projects but proceed with this one which is more important," he said.

As such, he hoped that the PAS-led Kelantan government would give its full cooperation to the expansion project. -- BERNAMA

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