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Kyrgyz seeks direct MAS flights to its capital Bishkek

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THE Republic of Kyrgyz has proposed that Malaysia Airlines fly directly to its capital Bishkek and use it as a transit point for flights between Europe and East Asia, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said this proposal was made by its Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry Esengul Omuralier, who is on a six-day visit to Malaysia.

Speaking to reporters after a closed-door meeting with Omuralier in Putrajaya yesterday, Abdullah said the Kyrgyz leader described the proposal as a good opportunity for Malaysia Airlines.

Kyrgyz, which gained independence from Russia in the early 1990s, is currently undergoing economic reforms.

These reforms are partly based on a report submitted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Government in 1997.

The report was prepared following a study by the Economic Planning Unit on economic development and opportunities in Kyrgyz.

"The report meets the needs of various economic sectors in the country.

"He (Omuralier) told me that they are doing this in stages, and hopes that trade and investment between our two countries can be further enhanced," Abdullah said.

A joint commission had also been established to oversee the implementation of recommendations from the report.

Abdullah said the commission has met but could not disclose the progress of economic reforms so far.

"It is too early to say whether they are successful or not.

"We ourselves are also interested to know how far Kyrgyz has succeeded in economic reform based on this report," he added.

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