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Mahathir-KLIA

MAHATHIR SATISFIED WITH PERFORMANCE OF KLIA

By: D.Arul Rajoo

PUTRAJAYA, June 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is satisfied with the performance of the KL International Airport which will celebrate its first anniversary on Sunday.

The prime minister, however, said there were still some weaknesses that needed to be overcome to further improve the KLIA's performance.

He said the KLIA, located in Sepang near here, experienced teething problems when it opened just like other new airports, including in the United States and Europe.

"I'm satisfied ... as in other places there were slight problems initially," Dr Mahathir told Bernama after chairing a meeting of the Prime Minister's Department at this new federal government administrative capital.

He was asked to comment on the KLIA's achievements in the first year and on its rating by an international aviation agency as the world's third best.

The prime minister said some airports were opened only two or three years after their completion unlike the KLIA which commenced operations almost immediately.

He said the KLIA experienced problems only in the first two weeks after which it achieved good progress in various areas.

"Service apparently is very good, it is user friendly. I'm satisfied but there's room for improvement.

"Among the improvements needed is an increase in signages in foreign languages like Japanese and other languages used by tourists."

Dr Mahathir said foreign leaders and visitors who met him had also praised the KLIA.

He said some Americans he met yesterday who were in the country for the first time were impressed with the airport.

"One of them is from Denver who said there were baggage handling problems after the new airport there was opened. This visitor is however impressed with the KLIA and considers it superb.

"But we must remember that we should improve the services all the time. Don't rest on our laurels, don't think that everything is fine so no more improvement is needed," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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