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STUDY UNDERWAY ON LOWERING AIRFARES TO SABAH

KOTA KINABALU, March 27 (Bernama) -- Sabah Minister of Tourism Development, Environment, Science and Technology Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today a study is underway to lower airfares to the state.

The result of the study which would cover the overall fare structure was expected to be announced soon, he said after opening the British Education Exhibition 99 here.

"The high airfares between Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah is one problem area in tourism promotion and the Federal Government is well aware of it," he said.

On more direct flights to Sabah, Chong said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given the greenlight for Sabah to have as many chartered flights as possible.

He said from next year, Sabah could expect direct charter flights from Sweden and Denmark.

Chong said he had an appointment with Dr Mahathir next week when he would brief him on the immediate line of action to address tourism shortcomings including the subject of direct flights to Sabah.

On the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) outbreak, Chong said the disease was only a problem in Negri Sembilan and Perak but had been misunderstood in Sabah.

"JE is not at all a problem in Sabah ... it is as safe as ever... and I have been advised by medical and veterinary experts that there has never been a problem here," he said.

-- BERNAMA

EL AAM