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## Malaysia Airports gets Subang site for NECC project

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THE Government has given the nod to Malaysia Airports Bhd to develop a piece of land near the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang as part of its National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) project, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

"We (Government) find that it is necessary for Malaysia Airports and the NECC to be contiguous," he told newsmen after launching the centre in Subang yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on a Business Times report on Tuesday which said that Naluri Bhd's plan for the development of the RM500 million Subang International Aviation and Aerospace Park (SIAP) appears to have been temporarily grounded by Malaysia Airports.

As an alternative, Dr Mahathir said, Naluri can take another piece of land next to Malaysia Airlines' aircraft servicing centre that belongs to the Rubber Research Institute.

"The area is about the same size and I see no reason why both Malaysia Airports and Naluri cannot have this whole area. I see no problem," he said.

Malaysia Airports will now develop the piece of land across Terminal One into an exhibition and convention centre, which was launched by the Prime Minister yesterday.

Work on SIAP was to have started this year but sources had said Naluri's proposal was rejected by the Cabinet about three weeks ago.

The ambitious SIAP project's infrastructure, not including the buildings, has been estimated to cost RM500 million.

It calls for the development of 172ha that includes Malaysia Airlines' facilities near the Subang airport.

Meanwhile, in its reply to the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) over the Business Times report, Malaysia Airports said negotiations are currently being held with the relevant government authorities on the lease of the Subang airport land.

"It is envisaged that the airport land would be leased by the Federal land commissioner (the "Lessor") and Malaysia Airports (the "Lessee") in due course.

"An announcement will be made to the KLSE once an agreement to this effect has been executed by the relevant parties," Malaysia Airports said.

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