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Ling-Sri Lanka

MALAYSIA TO HELP SRI LANKA UPGRADE AIRPORTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has offered to help Sri Lanka upgrade and expand its airports, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said Sri Lanka was happy with the offer and had agreed to send a group of engineers and technical officers to hold discussions with KL International Airport Berhad (KLIAB), the local consultant company which built the KL International Airport.

"This is our offer. If there are areas where we can cooperate with them, we will offer our expertise, especially in terms of KLIAB's capability," he told a news conference after receiving Sri Lankan Aviation and Airport Development Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle at his office here.

Fernandopulle, who assumed the post two months ago, is on a working tour of Malaysia, Japan and several other countries in the region to look at airport development.

"They want to go into airport development because their airports are very congested and their airports need expansion," Dr Ling said.

He said the government was confident that KLIAB would be of help to Sri Lanka because it had proved its ability in building the KLIA and an airport in Thailand.

"KLIAB not only has the ability to plan, design and build airports but also can build roads and bridges locally or overseas," he said.

Dr Ling was also asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's lengthy explanation in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday on why the government rejected Chinese pressure group Suqiu's petition.

"I think PM has explained the whole thing, so I hope everybody understands," he said.

Dr Mahathir had said that if the government were to accede to all of Suqiu's demands, Malaysia could no longer be peaceful or attain progress.

-- BERNAMA

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