

05 DEC 2000  
MAHATHIR-MAS  
MOF TO DECIDE ON MAS' SHARES

SHAH ALAM, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed today said the Ministry of Finance would have to decide on any proposal from foreign investors indicating their interest in acquiring a stake in the Malaysian Airline System Bhd (MAS).

He said this when asked by reporters on news reports that Switzerland's SAirGroup, was said to be willing to pay more than RM8 per share for a substantial stake in MAS.

"That's left to the Ministry of Finance to work out...very good for that price (SAirGroup's offer)," he added.

MAS's major shareholder, Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli was reported to be negotiating to sell his 29.09 percent interest in the airline, held through Naluri Bhd, to the government which in turn will divest all or portions of the shareholding to a foreign company.

Apart from the SAirGroup, other interested parties keen on acquiring Tajuddin's stake included Dutch airline KLM, and Australia's Qantas.--

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