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MAS-Ling

NO FINAL DECISION YET ON DOMESTIC AIR FARE HIKE, SAYS DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- The government has not made the final decision on a proposal by Malaysia Airlines (MAS) to increase domestic air fares, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"This is something still being worked out, and the final decision (on the fares) has not been reached," he told reporters when asked to comment on a newspaper report that MAS has been given the nod to increase fares for domestic flights.

The report quoting industry sources on Monday said MAS has been given the nod to increase domestic air fares by as much as 50 percent but specifically only for flights servicing the peninsula.

Asked when the government would make an announcement, Dr Ling said he would talk about the matter at the right time.

"We are working out all the details...as soon as possible," he said.

Dr Ling was also asked to comment on a news report today that Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Ezam Mohd Nor has publicly admitted his involvement in a movement to tarnish Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's name in the United States and Europe.

Dr Ling said: "I think that is a very cowardly act, say it here (in Malaysia) as we have the press here and everything.

"Why don't they say it within the country when we have the chance to reply rather than say it behind people's back when we have no chance to reply," said Dr Ling, who is also MCA president.

Answering a question on the Selangor government's proposal to ban pig farming in the state, he hoped there would be no ban but a suitable site be found for a modern pig farming area.

He said modern pig farming which was clean and hygienic could be implemented in Selangor, which is one of the largest pig-consuming states.

-- BERNAMA

HS AHH YBY