

14 SEP 2001

Ling-Yemen

MALAYSIA-YEMEN AGREE TO COOPERATE IN AIR SERVICES

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Yemen have initialled the draft text of a bilateral air services agreement and concluded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for an air services arrangement between the two countries.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the MoU provides a flexible arrangement which would enable airlines of both countries to plan and commence air services between Malaysia and Yemen in the near future.

He said currently, Yemen Airways operates services only to Mumbai, India, in the east and had yet to commence services in this region.

"MAS (Malaysia Airlines) does not have any services yet to Yemen but will look into the possibility of having services on a code-share arrangement," he told reporters at a joint news conference with Yemeni Transport and Marine Affairs Minister Capt Saeed Abdullah Al-Yafe'e here today.

The Yemeni delegation has been in Malaysia since Sept 4 in response to the invitation extended by Dr Ling to Capt Al-Yafe'e during the official visit of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Yemen last month.

The Yemeni Minister also expressed interest to have further collaboration with Malaysia in the training of aviation personnel at the Malaysian Civil Aviation College.

Dr Ling also said Malaysia and Yemen agreed in principle to enter into a "sister port agreement" to be signed between the Yemen Ports Authority and the Port Klang Authority.

"The areas of interest in establishing this agreement are air information exchange, technical assistance, port studies and training of port workers.

"The ultimate focus will be on trade development between Yemen and Malaysia," he said.

Capt Al-Yafe'e said the Yemen Ports Authority had offered the Port Klang Authority to jointly develop and manage part of Aden Port which is currently managed by Yemen Ports Authority.

This joint venture would enhance cooperation and trade development between Malaysia and Yemen as well as the surrounding areas, he said.

Capt A-Yafe'e also requested the Malaysian Government to seek the cooperation of Malaysian shipping companies to provide practical training for Yemeni seamen particularly deck cadet officers and engineering cadet officers on board Malaysian ships.

He also invited Malaysian companies to venture into airport and port construction projects in Yemen.

"I think there is a lot of scope for Malaysian companies to come and work in Yemen either in the tourism or development sector," he said.

During its visit here, the Yemeni delegation visited and were briefed on developments at the Department of Civil Aviation, KL International Airport (KLIA), Port Klang and the Malaysian Highway Authority.

-- BERNAMA

RZS HS RM