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MAS-PLANS

MAS TO ANNOUNCE PLANS IN TWO WEEKS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines is to announce in two weeks' time its plans including steps to place the national carrier back on a firm footing.

Its non-executive chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said the management has identified the problems faced by the company.

"We will reveal our plans and what we have been doing. We have identified the problems, as well as our options and solutions.

"We will announce them as soon as we are ready," Azizan, who is also Petronas chairman, told reporters after unveiling the Dewan Filharmonik Petronas 01/02 Season, here today.

Azizan was appointed Malaysia Airlines' non-executive chairman on Feb 14 this year, succeeding Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli who resigned following the completion of the sale of his 29.09 percent stake in the company.

Datuk Md Nor Md Yusof, a former adviser to the Ministry of Finance, was appointed managing director.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced in April that Malaysian Airlines would find foreign strategic partners to strengthen its performance, without giving any deadline.

Earlier in February Dr Mahathir hinted that a foreigner with "more technical knowledge of running an airline" might be appointed as Malaysia Airlines' chief operating officer.

MAS incurred a RM451.6 million unaudited loss for its third financial quarter ended Dec 31, 2000. It recorded a RM225.9 million ringgit loss in the same quarter a year earlier. -- BERNAMA

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