

27 AUG 2001

MEGAWATI-MALAYSIA AIRLINES

M'SIA ASKS FOR MORE LANDING RIGHTS IN JAKARTA

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today requested for more landing rights for Malaysia Airlines on the Kuala Lumpur-Jakarta sector during a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and visiting Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri here.

Currently MAS has two daily flights to Jakarta from Kuala Lumpur while Singapore Airlines has 12 flights from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore.

Foreign minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters here that there was justification for Malaysia to make the request since there were many Indonesian workers in Malaysia.

He said if the flights were not enough, Indonesian workers would have to go to Singapore or other countries to take flights home.

He said Malaysia's request had been already made to the previous Indonesian leadership and was now making a follow-up.

He said Malaysia should benefit from accepting a lot of Indonesian workers in the country and the request for more landing rights should be considered favourably.

At today's meeting, Syed Hamid said both leaders spoke, among others, on co-operation in security, economy and energy.

Malaysia had stated its intention to buy coal from Indonesia for the energy sector.

Dr Mahathir also told Megawati that Malaysian investors were keen to invest in Indonesia.

He was also pleased with Megawati's statement that the situation in Indonesia was back to normal, its political situation was stable and that she was working towards her country's economic recovery.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had invested in Indonesian's plantation sector but was also looking at other opportunities.

For example, Petronas and Pertamina were collaborating in an oil and gas concession in Indonesia.

As to whether there was any request for financial aid from Indonesia, Syed Hamid said there was none. -- BERNAMA

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