

27 AUG 2001

Megawati-MAS

M'SIA SEEKS MORE LANDING RIGHTS IN JAKARTA

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

There was justification for Malaysia to make the request since there were many Indonesian workers in Malaysia, according to the Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar when briefing reporters later.

Currently MAS has two daily flights to Jakarta from Kuala Lumpur.

He said insufficient flights on that sector would only prompt the Indonesian immigrant workers to go to Singapore or other countries to take their flight home.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia had already forwarded such request to the previous Indonesian leadership and was now following it up with Megawati.

He said Malaysia should benefit from accepting a lot of Indonesian workers and hoped that the request would be considered favourably.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir and Megawati discussed co-operation in security, economy and energy, among other things.

Dr Mahathir expressed Malaysia's intention to buy coal from Indonesia for the energy sector and told Megawati that Malaysian investors were keen to invest in the republic.

The prime minister was pleased with Megawati's statement that the situation in Indonesia was back to normal and has stabilised and that she was working towards her country's economic recovery, Syed Hamid said.

Dr Mahathir said besides having invested in Indonesia's plantation sector, Malaysia was also looking at other opportunities, citing as an example Petronas and Pertamina's collaboration in an oil and gas concession in the republic.

As to whether there was any Indonesian request for financial aid, Syed Hamid said there was none.

-- BERNAMA

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