

29/10/2002

PM: Sale a boost to MAS

reports on "Dewan Rakyat" by Ramlan Said; Farrah Naz Karim  
MALAYSIA Airlines disposed of 70 per cent of its stake in MAS Catering Sdn Bhd to a company on a willing buyer-willing seller basis.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said as such, the question on who were the shareholders of the company, Gubahan Saujana Sdn Bhd (GSSB) did not arise at all.

In a written reply to Husam Musa (Pas-Kubang Kerian) who queried whether it was true GSSB was connected to Ibrahim Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister said the sale was made to further strengthen the national carrier's financial position.

Malaysia Airlines netted RM175 million from the sale, signed on July 30.

Husam also queried the basis of the sale and the financial standing of MAS Catering's new owner.

Dr Mahathir said 51 per cent of GSSB was owned by Fahim Capital Sdn Bhd with the rest under the control of LSG Asia GmbH.

"LSG Asia GmbH is wholly-owned by LSG Service Holding AG, an international airline caterer operating in 200 locations worldwide."

Dr Mahathir said as MAS Catering was considered a non-core asset, the sale had allowed the airline to concentrate on its operations.

"However, Malaysia Airlines will continue holding its 30 per cent equity to ensure MAS Catering will continue providing optimum service."

Dr Mahathir said another reason was that GSSB had wide experience in the catering business, and that the airline would be able to save on service cost in the long term.