

26 FEB 2002  
Ling-Airport  
CABINET DECISION SOON ON SAAS AIRPORT

PETALING JAYA, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- The fate of terminal three at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah (SAAS) Airport in Subang near here will be decided by the Cabinet within the next two or three weeks.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said a Cabinet paper on the SAAS Airport had been prepared and would be submitted to the Cabinet soon.

"The government will make a final decision on whether the Subang (SAAS) Airport will be totally or partially closed or opened indefinitely".

He told reporters this after inspecting renovation work at the Star Publications' old premises here which will be turned into Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman temporary campus.

He was earlier asked to comment on public concern that the SAAS Airport could be closed following the commencement of Express Rail Link (ERL) services between Kuala Lumpur and KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang from April 19 this year.

A local daily today reported that members of the public are hoping that SAAS Airport would still be used for domestic flights.

Among the reasons given by those interviewed by the newspaper is the long distance between the city and KLIA.

Dr Ling said the Cabinet would take various factors into account, including the call for SAAS Airport to remain open, impact on the ERL services, traders operating at the KLIA and the government's objective of making the KLIA the hub for regional cargo and passenger handling.

The SAAS Airport was closed when all commercial flights switched to KLIA on June 30, 1998.

However Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad directed for SAAS Airport's terminal three to be reopened for domestic flights.

At the moment, Malaysia Airline (MAS), Air Asia and Berjaya Air are operating at the SAAS Airport.

-- BERNAMA  
AKT AHH ZUL