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Mahathir-ERL

KL CITY AIR TERMINAL BRINGS VISION 2020 CLOSER TO REALISATION

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today revealed the possibility of two Asean cities of Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, or for that matter Johor Baharu and Penang, be linked in future with a high speed train service following the successful completion of the Express Rail Link (ERL) project.

The RM2.4 billion project provides non-stop high speed train service between Kuala Lumpur City Air Terminal (KL CAT) at the KL Sentral here to KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang, about 50km away.

The KLIA Ekspres, as the train service is known, begins operation tomorrow at 8am after that 5am daily with the trains running at 15 minutes interval. The last train will depart the KL CAT at 1am.

The one-way fare to KLIA for the 28-minute ride is RM35. The train has a top speed of 160 kilometres per hour.

Launching the KLIA Ekspres service and the KL CAT here, Dr Mahathir said all vital strategic infrastructures, which in the past were impossible to provide, had been into place with the completion of the ERL project.

"Now, the railway link to China is being worked on," he said in a televised address.

Dr Mahathir said that with the completion of the KL CAT, Malaysia is getting closer of realising its Vision 2020 objective of becoming a developed country.

He said that with the high speed train service, KLIA is now at par with any other modern and advance airports in the world such as the Heathrow in London and Hong Kong with check-in flight facilities.

With the competitive edge and world-class facilities, the KLIA hopefully would emerge as a successful regional hub for air travellers.

"Airport within the city concept has become a reality...I am sure KL City Air Terminal will become a new landmark for the capital as well as a new tourist destination," he said.

Dr Mahathir also urged operator of the high speed train service, Express Rail Link Sdn Bhd (ERLSB) to market the service, KLIA Transit service and KL CAT to local and foreign travellers.

He said ERLSB must provide world class service by ensuring the safety and comfort of passengers as well as reliability of service.

Dr Mahathir also urged Malaysians to use the KLIA Ekspres as the fastest way of travelling to KLIA.

Stating that the project, jointly undertaken by ERLSB and Simens of Germany, was completed ahead of schedule and within the budget, Dr Mahathir hoped that all Malaysian projects would be liked the ERL project of world class but third world price.

-- BERNAMA

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