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MAS TO REOPEN KL-NEWARK ROUTE

By: Salmy Hashim

NEW YORK, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) may reopen its Kuala Lumpur-Newark route in April or May, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here Monday.

The KL-Newark route was discontinued after the Sept 11 attacks by terrorists on the New York World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in Washington.

The prime minister said that in the meantime, MAS had a very difficult time and had to restructure and to cut back on its operations, especially routes that were not making money.

The government would buy aircraft from MAS and lease them back to MAS to reduce the airline's outstanding debt burden, he said.

MAS is saddled with an outstanding debt of RM9.2 billion.

With careful management, hopefully MAS could make profit again, he said in response to a question following his speech at the Asia Society.

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