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Chan-Langkawi

AIR ASIA TO LINK LANGKAWI, PHUKET IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Air Asia will start flying the Langkawi-Phuket sector in January next year as part of an effort to jointly promote the two resort islands as tourist destinations, Transport Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy said today.

He said the joint promotion move was discussed when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart, Thaksin Shinawatra, met in the legendary island of Langkawi recently.

"So this is the first step towards realising that goal," Chan told reporters after attending the weekly Cabinet meeting, here.

He said Malaysia Airlines (MAS) was also keen on the idea but would only come in later.

Both airlines, he said, had also been asked to look at the possibility of flying to other destinations in Thailand while those from the royal kingdom were welcome to do likewise in Malaysia.

He said that details such as the frequency of flights between the two islands would be worked out by Air Asia which would maintain its "no-frills" concept.

Touching on the government's determination to nip corruption in the civil service, Chan said he would do his utmost in ensuring that the staff of his ministry and its agencies performed their duties according to rules and regulations.

He said six weeks into the job as minister, he had yet to receive any reports of corruption and, if any emerged, would treat them seriously.

On Gerakan's unhappiness over MCA's acceptance of two of its state assemblymen, Lim Chin Aun (Bayan Lepas) and Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat), as members three days after they won the seats under the Gerakan ticket in 1999, Chan said the best way to discuss any differences would be through the Barisan Nasional channel.

"We are not prepared to discuss any issue pertaining to the swapping of seats openly...especially through the Press," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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