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Mahathir-Airport

MAHATHIR TOURS NEW RM220-MILLION MIRI AIRPORT TERMINAL

MIRI, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a brief tour of the facilities at the new RM220 million Miri airport terminal here upon arrival from the Long Bedian settlement in Baram this evening.

The project, undertaken by Ekran Berhad on a 30-month contract, was completed 12 months ahead of schedule.

Speaking to reporters later, Ekran executive chairman Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing said Dr Mahathir was very impressed with the new airport, which was expected to be fully operational by June 15 this year.

"He likes it very much but jokingly says it (construction) is too slow and should have been done by last year," he said.

Ting said the 1,667m taxiway, which can handle as many as 18 landings and departures hourly and the 2,745m runway, had been handed over Malaysia Airports Berhad and were already in use.

The new building, which can handle between 800 and 1,200 passengers at any one time during peak hours, is seen as timely when Miri attains "Resort City" status in 2005 and the Boeing 747 and Airbus 330 aircraft are operated from international hubs.

Ting said it was four times the size of the old terminal, which would be demolished soon to make way for an access road to its main entrance.

Ekran, the turnkey contractor, started work on Nov 10, 2001, and the project was scheduled for completion in May next year.

-- BERNAMA

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