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MAS-Flights

MAS TO REINSTATE SUSPENDED MIRI-KL FLIGHTS

KUCHING, June 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) will reinstate its daily 7am Miri-Kuala Lumpur and 8.30pm Kuala Lumpur-Miri flights from next week, its regional manager (Sarawak and West Kalimantan), Mohamed Suffian Abdul Malik, said today.

Speaking to reporters after attending a briefing on MasKargo E-Commerce here, he said that MAS decided to reinstate the flights after assessing the possible load factor and demand.

When MAS terminated the MH2551 (7am) and MH2598 (8.30pm) flights, putting a damper on the 'Visit Sarawak Year 2003', Miri was left with only one direct flight to Kuala Lumpur at 3.40pm, which was the scenario a decade ago.

Mohamed Suffian said that MAS had always been very supportive of the state government's plan to promote domestic tourism.

He said that MAS was looking at the possible increase in load factor with the completion of the Mulu airport extension works which could cater for the Fokker 50-seater aircraft, an addition to the existing services provided by the 15-seater Twin-Otter aircraft.

"Those visiting Mulu will stop in Miri and use these flights out to Kuala Lumpur," he said.

On May 8 this year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad inspected the new RM220 million Miri airport terminal which was fully operational this month.

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

The 1,667m taxiway and 2,745 runway can handle as many as 18 landings and departures hourly.

The new building, four times the size of the old terminal, can also handle between 800 and 1,200 passengers at any one time during peak hours. It is seen as timely as Miri is due to attain "Resort City" status in 2005.

-- BERNAMA

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