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LING-MAS

MORE ROUTES FOR AIR ASIA, SAYS DR LING

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- The government will give Air Asia more routes to fly to generate a healthy competition with the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines, Transport Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

However, he said the move would not have any negative impact on Malaysia Airlines as the rights given would be within the framework of fares.

"The track record shows that although we expanded the passenger carriage by more than a million in the past one year, MAS carriage has not dropped which means that we have generated a new group of travellers," he told reporters after opening the new DHL Danzas Logistics Centre in Puchong, here.

Dr Ling also said that at the moment the two air carriers were competing in a very healthy environment as the government had a control over domestic fare prices.

He was asked on the latest development about the proposed `formula' to allow healthy competition between MAS and Air Asia.

He said he would bring this proposal up to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before the premier went on leave after attending the Islamic Organisation Conference (OIC) meeting scheduled in Doha, Qatar tomorrow.

On another note, Dr Ling said the government was planning to conduct a study on the country's logistic networks.

He said the study, expected to commence soon, would among other things, identify areas that needed an improvement.

Consultants with the the approval from the Treasury and the necessary international links will be given the task to handle this, he added.

Danzas is one of the logistics companies in the country which offers among other things air freight, ocean freight and supply chain management solutions services.

The logistics centre, worth RM30 million is the largest warehousing facility in Malaysia and has started its operation in June 2002. -- BERNAMA

NM KTC