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MAS to resume all flights by September

MIRI, Sun. - Malaysia Airlines will resume by September all flights suspended due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak.

Transport Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy said some of the 70 domestic and international flights had been reinstated since last month.

"It is being done in stages and will be completed by September," he said here after visiting the new Miri airport terminal building today.

The RM220-million airport, operational since June 30, will be declared open by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday.

Malaysia Airlines suspended about 70 domestic and international flights last April when passenger volume plunged due to SARS.

But it recovered fast and recently introduced a new service to Balikpapan, Indonesia, and few other destinations in China that will start soon.

Chan said while old airports would be upgraded, the Government would also build new ones.

Among those to be upgraded are the Alor Star airport and Kuching International Airport, while those already upgraded included the Miri and Bintulu airports.

Chan said the Miri airport could handle a peak hour volume of up to 800 passengers.