

Proposal to allow only passengers inside airport terminals

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The government is considering a proposal to allow only passengers into the terminals at all major airports in Malaysia in order to raise the security level, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

He said the cabinet at its meeting on Wednesday proposed that only the passengers be allowed at the check-in counters while those sending them off should be outside the building or allowed to be at a particular place.

"The cabinet has instructed the Transport Minister (Liow Tiong Lai) to work out this proposal with MAHB (Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd).

Hopefully, it can be implemented soon," Zahid told Malaysian journalists covering the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Zahid, who is leading the Malaysian delegation to the Asem Summit, said Liow was also asked to find a mechanism to ensure that vehicles sending off or waiting for the air passengers would not be near the terminal.

"Perhaps these vehicles should only be allowed to be placed at the car park," he said when asked to comment on the terror attack in Nice, France, last night that has left 80 people dead and several others injured.

Zahid said he has also instructed that security control be tightened at all Malaysian airports, including increasing the number of police and military personnel deployed under the National Blue Ocean Strategy.

He said assets to enhance security control at the airports would also be increased, including purchasing sophisticated devices such as high-definition CCTVs and facial recognition equipment.

Zahid also expressed hope that other Asean countries would tighten security at their respective airports.

- *Bernama*

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