

Idris a good manager, says PM

NST- 2/8/2007



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TAIPING: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi came to the defence of MAS managing director Datuk Idris Jala yesterday, saying that the call for the latter's resignation was unmerited.

"I don't think my friend (Senator Tajulurus Mohd Zain) should have asked for Idris to step down.

"He (Idris) is a good manager and I think he can manage (the problems faced by MAS)," he said after unveiling the master-plan for Perak under the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) in Selinsing, 20km from here.

Abdullah also said that MAS was aware of the problems it was facing and expressed confidence that measures were being taken by the airline's management.

"There has been some success. The number of flight delays has been reduced.

Abdullah said: "Idris also has to look into many other problems and the turnaround for MAS cannot be accomplished so rapidly."

On Sunday, an English daily reported Tajulurus calling for Idris' resignation "to prevent further sliding of services by MAS".

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy, however, has expressed satisfaction with measures taken by MAS to make sure flights were on time.