

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	20/08/2017B

LANGKAWI-SHENZHEN

## Najib launches new AirAsia route

NST- 20/8/2017 pg. 4

**LANGKAWI:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday launched AirAsia's new direct route from here to Shenzhen, China, at Lang Merah Complex here.

The route is expected to boost the island's status as a world-class tourism destination.

Present were Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abd Aziz Kaprawi and AirAsia group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes.

The thrice weekly route, which commenced on Aug 9, is set to

boost tourism here, in line with the Langkawi Development Authority's mission to tap into new foreign markets.

AirAsia flies to seven destinations from the island – Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Baru, Kuching, Singapore, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

Tony expressed his appreciation for Najib's efforts in reducing airport tax.

"We can see that through his (Najib) leadership, the number of international tourists have increased from 87,754 passengers

in 2015 to 187,433 passengers last year, an increase of 120 per cent."

The number, he said, represented a contribution of RM300 million to the country's gross domestic product based on a multiplier effect of 12.

Last year was the first year when the number of international tourists outnumbered domestic tourists.

"We are encouraged by this and this year, we have flown more than one million tourists to Langkawi." **Bernama**



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and AirAsia group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes (second from right) at the launch of AirAsia's new direct route from Langkawi to Shenzhen, China, in Langkawi yesterday. PIC BY AMRAN HAMID