

AIRPORT CHAOS

PM: FIND OUT WHAT CAUSED KLIA GLITCH

'It should have not occurred as other airports also using same systems'

HANOI

PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) to examine the real cause of the network failure that triggered a systems outage at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and klia2 last Wednesday.

He said the disruption which saw dozens of flights delayed, besides affecting the flight information display, check-in-counters, baggage handling and WiFi connection, should not have occurred as the same systems were also used in other airports.

"We need to look into this problem, as it should not have happened as other airports also use the same systems. They did not experience the same problems as we did," Dr Mahathir said at the end of his three-day visit here.

Dr Mahathir said, as of now, the



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systems were stabilising, even though operations had yet to be "smooth-sailing".

MAHB had said it had not ruled out the possibility that the network failure was caused by an act of malicious intent.

It lodged a police report and investigations were ongoing for causing damage through mischief.

The *New Straits Times*, in a front-page report on Saturday, said the systems disruption could be due to a cyberattack.

On his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali's health, Dr Mahathir said she remained warded despite her improved condition.

Dr Siti Hasmah has been receiving treatment at Prince Court Medical Centre in Kuala Lumpur since Monday due to mild food poisoning.

"She has gotten better but is still warded. I will be visiting her upon my return."

When asked, he said he missed his wife as they had been together for more than 60 years.

Dr Siti Hasmah was previously scheduled to accompany Dr Mahathir for his visit to Vietnam.

"Yes (I miss her). (We have been together for) 60 years already, (compared with) others who were only married for a few years.

"(Some had) lavish weddings and invited many guests, but then divorced a couple of years later."

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said the government had the means to implement the free breakfast programme for primary school students next year, and funds could be sourced from various agencies, including the Customs Department.

"Usually, if a ministry makes huge revenue earnings, it does not mean that all of them will go to that ministry."

Asked if funds would be sourced from sugar tax, Dr Mahathir said: "Tax collection will be channelled into a fund and distributed to ministries, and more will be given out if necessary."