

# Widening access to Mukah

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**Official opening:** Ismail Sabri signing a plaque at the launch of the new Mukah airport. Sharing the excitement are Abang Johari and Dr Wee (both are flanking the Prime Minister). — Bernama

## Govt planning more MASwings flights to coastal town

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**MUKAH:** The government is planning more return flights from the Mukah fishing town in Sarawak, says Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

The Prime Minister said the Malaysian Aviation Commission (Mavcom) will implement the rationalisation of the Rural Air Services (RAS) to increase the number of MASwings flights to the coastal town.

The rationalisation, he added, will involve a review of the objectives of the RAS and costs involved in increasing the flights.

“The review also covers the route and frequency of RAS flights, fares,

airplanes and the mechanisms to provide subsidies to customers from time to time,” he said during the officiating ceremony of the airport here yesterday.

Also present during the launch were Gabungan Parti Sarawak chairman Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib.

Ismail Sabri said MASwings began its operations to the interiors of Sabah and Sarawak in 2008.

Beginning 2019, an agreement was signed between Putrajaya and MASwings, under which the carrier will provide services for 40 routes

in Sarawak and Sabah using the ATR 72 and Twin Otter Viking aircraft, he said.

He said that there were four air services linking Mukah to the main cities or towns in Sarawak using Twin Otter aircrafts.

The weekly flights to the four routes are Kuching-Mukah (28), Miri-Mukah (seven), Sibul-Mukah (three) and Bintulu-Mukah (two).

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said the newly-built Mukah airport will accommodate more visitors to the fishing town, contributing to Sarawak’s economic development.

“This new airport is equipped with a terminal building, a 1,500m runway that can be used by ATR aircraft capable of carrying more

passengers than the Twin Otter.”

Ismail Sabri also said the completion of the Mukah airport is a milestone in engineering and transportation as its construction took place during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“It is a significant achievement for Malaysians and reflects the success and development that we will achieve as a country,” he added.

The construction of the Mukah airport began in 2017.

It officially started operating on June 17.

Watch the video  
**TheStarTV.com**

