

**Parliament: Questions Raised In Dewan Rakyat On MAS-AirAsia Share Swap Deal
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- MPs from both sides of the divide fired questions repeatedly on the share swap deal between national airline MAS and budget carrier AirAsia when Deputy Transport Minister Jelaing Mersat was winding up debate on the 2012 budget estimates for the ministry in the Dewan Rakyat Tuesday.

Wee Choo Keong (IND-Wangsa Maju) asked Jelaing for a detailed explanation of the "Comprehensive Collaborative Framework (CCF)" agreed to by MAS and AirAsia in arriving at the deal last August.

He had touched on the cancellation of flights between the peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak by budget carrier Firefly.

Chong Chieng Jien (DAP-Bandar Kuching) asked whether the MAS-AirAsia deal would benefit the people in terms of lower fares and higher flight frequency.

Datuk Seri Wilfred Bumburing (BN-Tuaran) wanted to know why international direct routes linking Sabah to places such as Hong Kong and Japan have been cancelled and whether MAS had to follow the dictates of AirAsia.

The rapid-fire questions forced Jelaing to promise written answers to the MPs.

Meanwhile, Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh (BN-Putatan) expressed his disappointment over the absence of safety features along the railway tracks in Kepanyan, Kota Kinabalu, where a passenger train ploughed into an oil tanker lorry yesterday.

He said the safety issue had been raised often but there have been no efforts to tackle the matter.

"The contractor had pledged to resolve the issue when laying the tracks but nothing has been done so far," he said.

Dr Marcus said there were 31 level crossings along the tracks but only seven had fencing and gates, and added that the absence of signboards placed the safety of road users at risk.

Jelaing said the government had plans to overcome the problem, but Dr Marcus was unhappy with the reply.

"Having plans is not the answer. Immediate action must be taken and promises must be kept," he said.

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