

**National Aviation Council Will Coordinate National Aviation Policies, Says Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, May 3 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, today announced the establishment of the National Aviation Council to coordinate all policies related to the aviation industry in the country.

He said the council would deal with all policies on aviation and decide on issues arising between Malaysia's premier carrier, Malaysia Airlines (MAS), low-cost carrier, AirAsia Bhd, and airports' operator, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd.

"With the existence of an intermediary body, which handles issues objectively, Malaysia's aviation industry growth can be better planned, orderly and systematically.

"Problems surfacing from time to time can be amicably resolved and coordinated through the council. If there are fundamental issues, they can be forwarded to the Economic Council for the government to make a decision," he told a media conference.

Najib said the council's details and structural set-up would be announced soon.

Asked on individuals to be appointed to the council, Najib said people with vast experience in the aviation industry would be named to the council.

"We're still in the midst of scouting for right people. Probably, it should be in one or two months' time. It is about time, otherwise it is very hard to arbitrate between MAS, AirAsia and MAHB.

"We need a body really dedicated and understand the nature of the industry," he added.

Earlier, Najib, who is also Finance Minister, attended the Putrajaya Committee on Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) High Performance Group meeting and held a dialogue with GLCs.

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