

**MAS Focusing On Aircraft Replacement To Enhance Revenue And Reduce Operational Costs - Najib  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) is now focusing on the plan to replace aircraft as its priority towards enhancing revenue as well as reducing operational costs, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

As a strategic move towards regaining customer confidence, MAS will introduce long haul services in utilising the Airbus A380 as a 'new brand' for the airline from July 1, he added.

Najib, who is also the Finance Minister said this in his written reply to a question from Hee Loy Sian (PKR-Petaling Jaya Selatan), on the improvement plan to ensure the RM2.52 billion loss last year was not repeated.

He said to enhance the satisfaction level of customers and make it the premium airline of choice, MAS was initiating improvements to existing services, including the checking of passengers and upgrading the first and business class lounges.

He said MAS will join the 'oneworld alliance' at the end of this year to enhance its brand among other airline customers as well as improve the 'load factor' with additional traffic.

Najib said the net loss for MAS in 2011 was RM2.52 billion and RM171 million for the first quarter of 2012, resulting from a slump in the global aviation industry, particularly for cargo services as well as an increase in the operational costs of the company.

"Based on the financial performance for the said period, MAS is now working to strengthen its balance sheet to enable the financing of the new aircraft which is considered crucial for its recovery strategy," he added.

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