

Hishammuddin has to explain latest klia2 debacle, says PKR

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PKR today demanded that Acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein explain the further delay of the opening of budget terminal klia2 after two-thirds of the building failed fire and safety standards in an inspection last week.

Its vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar (pic) said the minister had last month assured that the terminal was 98% complete and would receive its Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC) by the end of the month.

"He has to explain to the people on what grounds did he make that statement last month because it contradicts the findings of agencies which found that 65% of the building did not meet safety standards," she said in a statement.

According to a statement from Malaysian Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB), Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, the Sepang Municipal Council and the Fire and Rescue Department inspected the building in the last week of January and found that 65% of the main terminal did not comply with fire and safety standards.

There were cracks in a sewerage pipe outside the terminal, and parts of the road and drainage were not fit for use. The authorities' recommendation is essential for the issuance of the Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC).

MAHB said that it failed to receive the CCC for the klia2 terminal building from UEMC-Bina Puri.

The budget terminal has missed several opening deadlines with the last one scheduled for April 30 before it was moved to May 2.

"I have brought up this issue in March last year about the cost of building klia2 and questioned if the new terminal would be completed in the allocated time," Izzah said.

"The initial launch date of June 28, 2013 has already passed and we still do not have klia2. In July last year, the people were also shocked at the revelation that the cost for its construction had ballooned from RM2 billion to RM4 billion."

She reiterated that the reports given by the agencies were not the same as what was promised by Hishammuddin in January.

"Is he just repeating the guarantees given by the contractor UEMC-Bina Puri, without taking into account the reports from responsible agencies? The people deserve an answer after the opening date of the airport has been delayed a few times," Izzah said.

In a separate statement, UEM-Bina Puri confirmed it could not obtain the CCC by January 31 and claimed that this was due to an "unexpected issue" which occurred recently during a follow-up inspection.

"The JV partners have discussed and are working with MAHB, the authorities, consultants and architects to rectify the matter and rectification works will commence immediately. Public safety is the main priority, thus, we will ensure proper rectification works are diligently carried out," it said.

However, Izzah rubbished the excuse, saying that it cannot be used to explain the issue.

"If two-thirds of the building had failed the safety standards, then it is because of the usage of materials of low quality which did not meet the required standards," she said.

Nurul Izzah said she would propose in the next Parliament sitting a "parliament reformation agenda" with a committee set up to look into issues and policies regarding defence and internal security, domestic and international trade, education and public transportation.

"This includes the setting up of a parliamentary select committee, with both BN and PR parliamentarians, regarding klia2 issues such as ensuring the construction of the airport followed the international safety standards and looking into the cost of klia2," she said. – February 5, 2014.

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