

PAC to look into klia2 security features after reports of imposters on board flight MH370
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By Elizabeth Zachariah

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said it will ensure that the new klia2 airport will be fitted with full safety and security features to weed out criminals entering the country.

Chairman Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed said these would include tools or software that would connect to Interpol's database.

"PAC is very concerned and will not compromise on this issue of safety and we want to look into klia2's building design, whether or not it makes it easier for criminals, drug smugglers and terrorists to use the country as entry and exit points," he said in a statement today.

This comes after it was revealed that two men had used fake passports to board Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport last week.

The two men were later identified as Iranians but had used Italian and Austrian passports to leave the country on the Beijing-bound plane.

The plane disappeared off radar around 1.20am on Saturday morning, sparking a debate on whether the two imposters had anything to do with it.

At a press conference later, Nur Jazlan said he was satisfied with the development of klia2 and was confident that it will be opened by May 2.

"MAHB has assured us that they will take care of the planning and implementations.

"Most importantly, the airport is almost ready and will be opened on May 2," he added.

Nur Jazlan would also be calling on MAHB to explain the delay of more than a year and the ballooning of the cost from RM1.8 billion to RM4 billion.

He had earlier said the changes based on demands of the aviation industry were among the reasons for the surge in cost of the klia2 project.

He said the aviation industry is constantly changing especially in the low-budget travel sector, resulting in the increase of cost and delay of the project.

Safety concerns over the airport were raised following the discovery of cracks in the oft-delayed budget terminal klia2's taxiway, apron and at least one aircraft bay, weeks after the terminal building failed an inspection for fire and safety standards in January.

Last month, MAHB confirmed that the opening of Malaysia's new budget terminal at Sepang could be delayed as two-thirds of the building failed fire and safety standards after an inspection.

According to a statement from MAHB, Indah Water Konsortium, 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) for the RM4 billion airport terminal.

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

The main contractor, UEMC-Bina Puri Joint Venture, had earlier assured that it would hand over the terminal building or CCC to the airport operator by January 31. – March 13, 2014.

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