

**Critical Need For KLIA2 To Address Functionality, Safety & Security Issues: Airasia
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- AirAsia Bhd has denied news reports that it is being difficult in moving to KLIA2, set to open on May 2, saying there is a critical need for the new low-cost terminal to address concerns relating to its functionality, safety and security.

"We are ready and committed to make the best out of KLIA2 although it is not the design we wanted, and no longer a fully low-cost carrier terminal (LCCT) as initially promised by Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd," AirAsia's Chief Executive Officer Aireen Omar said Wednesday.

"We are more than ready to move to KLIA2 but we must move under the right circumstances (as) we will be the anchor tenant at the new airport, accounting for more than 80 per cent of KLIA2's traffic.

"Hence, the critical need for KLIA2 to be fully functional and operationally viable in the long-term," she said in a statement.

From the published articles, it might be perceived that AirAsia was deliberately not moving to KLIA2 or being difficult on purpose, "but I can assure you that is not our intention."

She said these concerns were "paramount to our staff working efficiently, and for our passengers to have a seamless travel experience."

AirAsia had said previously that it would stay put at the current LCCT after May 9, despite the government's announcement that it would be closed on that date.

In view of this predicament, Aireen has appealed for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to be involved in resolving what she described was a national issue.

She said KLIA2 has the potential to be a global aviation hub, just like Dubai and as the largest low-cost carrier in the region, AirAsia "can and will contribute towards making that a reality, directly elevating the nation's aviation industry as a whole."

"This year, we expect to carry at least 24 million passengers via Kuala Lumpur, and with this size of operations, we have to ensure the airport is fully functional without any possible interruptions," she added.

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