

PRESS RELEASE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The mainstream media should report responsibly and not be used as a weapon or tool to promote private projects that have not obtained approval or even serious consideration by the relevant Ministries, Federal or state governments. Instead, the MCA-owned The Star has chosen to sensationally plaster on its front page yesterday, two so-called new massive airport proposals for the Northern region, when both the Kedah and Penang state governments as well as the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Finance, have no knowledge of and are completely in the dark.

Even Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself has made it clear that he has only read about these proposals through the media. This directly contradicts The Star's report that made several very speculative claims, that one of the project's sponsors had made presentations to the Prime Minister's Office on January 14 this year, even though they had been planning this for four years. Clearly only The Star is privy to information relating to the project's viability or the financial track record and background of the sponsors.

The Government receives numerous proposals that claim to have financial backing worth tens and even hundreds of billions of ringgit. These proposals need to be scrutinised comprehensively and comply with due diligence, to differentiate between genuine proposals deserving of further attention, and those that contain half-baked ideas or even scams. Would The Star be printing each of these proposals as frontpage exclusives on a daily basis, solely based on what their promoters claim?

The Government is appreciative of professional, responsible and ethical journalism based on facts and figures that filters out baseless, spurious and preposterous claims that only sows confusion amongst the industry and the public. Failure to do so would make them no different from being a purveyor of fake news or a servant of certain private interests, with little thought to the unfortunate consequences from making those claims.

Sayangi Malaysiaku!

Lim Guan Eng

Minister Of Finance

Ministry Of Finance

Putrajaya

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