

PRESS RELEASE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Both the Finance and Transport Ministry as well as the state governments of Kedah and Penang are completely in the dark relating to the sensational front-page report in The Star today, that two companies are proposing two massive airport projects on mainland Penang valued at tens of billions of ringgit. The Star blared out that the 2 new airport proposals would replace the existing Penang International Airport (PIA) in Bayan Lepas and threaten the proposed Kulim International Airport funded by Private Financing Initiative (PFI).

To date, The Star report has only sowed confusion amongst the communications and transport industry because they failed to disclose who had attended the briefing or accepted the recommendations. So far both the Transport Minister, YB Anthony Loke, and Kedah Menteri Besar, YAB Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, have told me that they know nothing about the two so-called new airport proposals.

The Chief Minister of Penang, YB Chow Kon Yeow, has also said that the Penang state government has no knowledge of it. Approval from the Penang State Government is critical when it involves land issues. Unless the MCA-owned The Star can prove that they practice responsible journalism by showing evidence, and that it is not a figment of their imagination that the Federal government had considered the proposals, they are on a fishing expedition not worthy of professional journalism.

Such baseless speculation is also grossly unfair by giving the negative impression that the Federal government is riding roughshod over the state governments or the rakyat by considering such a massive project involving thousands of hectares of padi land or 5,000 hectares of reclaimed land from the sea.

Let me state that the Federal government's position as stated in the 2019 Budget, is clearly to expand the existing PIA to a capacity of 16 million passengers yearly from the present 6.5 million passengers. The expansion of the PIA will be conducted in 2 phases. PIA's proposed 16 million passengers yearly should be able meet the existing PIA'S capacity of 8 million passengers until 2030. There is room for further expansion in the future of PIA to 20 million passengers. As for the Kulim International Airport, the Federal government is awaiting proposals on its construction through PFI, without requiring any expenditure from the Federal government.

Sayangi Malaysiaku!

Lim Guan Eng

Minister Of Finance

Ministry Of Finance

Putrajaya

10 June 2019

[Tweet](#)

[Like](#) Be the first of your friends to like this.
