

WEE: New Deal Will Help Boost Malaysia's Airport

PETALING JAYA : Malaysia is set to have a new operating agreement (OA) for its aviation gateways with the Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) this year, says Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong. The Transport Minister said the OA would be a vital guide for the development of the national aviation gateways in meeting the future trend to be “modern, world-class, competitive and sustainable”. According to Dr Wee, the OA would assist the MAHB in strengthening the nation’s airports into important hubs for air travel and logistics. “To do that, the OA must create value for users, provide clarity to all stakeholders and be investor-friendly, ” Wee said in a Facebook post yesterday.

Dr Wee, who is Ayer Hitam MP, had earlier attended a workshop where he delivered his closing remarks to key stakeholders and participants in the event organised by the MAHB to finalise the OA’s articles and clauses. He said the articles and clauses would form the basis of the government’s relationship with MAHB until Feb 11, 2069. “The outcome from the workshop will be refined and finalised in due time, ” the minister said, adding that he was hopeful for the new OA to be inked with MAHB this year.

Dr Wee noted that collaboration between MAHB and the government was crucial to develop the country’s 39 airports, comprising five international airports, 16 domestic airports and 18 STOLports (short take-off and landing airport), serving more than 120 airlines and nearly 100 million passengers annually. “After the new OA is signed, the operation and management of airports should be sustainable in the long-term. “It will also provide flexibility to MAHB to undertake the necessary development projects or initiatives to improve airport infrastructure and services while providing the government with better revenue. “For sure there is an imminent need for our airports to be upgraded in the near future to support economic growth, attract international travellers, as well as pull in investments and create jobs, ” he said.

Dr Wee also thanked MAHB for hosting the three-day workshop over the weekend. Representatives and participants included those from Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the Finance Ministry and Transport Ministry, Attorney General’s Chambers, Federal Land Commission and the Prime Minister’s Department.