

Airport security: Need to tighten rules

QUESTION :

NEW STRAITS TIMES

02/03/2010

I REFER to the letter "Why give them special treatment" (NST, March 2) and wish to confirm the incident mentioned by D.T.J. of Seremban as I, too, was among the passengers who arrived at the Subang airport (the old Subang Terminal 3 which has now been refurbished) on the evening of Feb 21.

D.T.J.

had said that a Mercedes Benz and a BMW (both with drivers) had been parked next to the aircraft parking bays on the tarmac of Subang airport. I am sad and utterly shocked that the culture of "prevention is better than cure" is not being practised by airport operators, namely Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (MAHB) and the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA). Do we have to experience some tragic accident or planned terror attack before we open our eyes? The fact is, some are so oblivious and are unable to envisage the dangers that loom over our heads despite so many past accidents, security and safety breaches, and collapsed bridges and stadiums. Do we ever learn from history? Would the DCA, MAHB, the Customs and Excise Department and the Immigration Department care to explain this violation of safety rules? How are we to know that passenger safety and security is accorded top priority by the authorities?

FEEDBACK :

NEW STRAITS TIMES

04/03/2010

I REFER to the letter by M.A. of Shah Alam ("Need to tighten rules" -- NST, March 4) regarding two cars that were parked at the tarmac of the Subang Skypark Terminal.

The use of private vehicles was agreed upon by Malaysia Airports, Skypark Subang and corporate aircraft operators as Skypark Subang is designed to cater to corporate and individual-owned aircraft, in view of its fixed based operation status. All parties are to adhere to Malaysia Airports' standard operating procedures, which have been agreed to by the Department of Civil Aviation. This includes the requirement that an application be made prior to the access. Cars and passengers are verified by Malaysia Airports' aviation security personnel and the cars are escorted and allowed to be parked in designated areas, not in the vicinity of aircraft parking areas.

Rest assured that the department, as the civil aviation authority, periodically carries out surveillance on the safety and security aspects at Subang Skypark Terminal.

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