

Awaiting PM's approval

> National Aviation Council framework has been submitted to Najib: Kong

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KUALA LUMPUR: The framework for the proposed National Aviation Council has been submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak for his approval, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha said yesterday.

"I have done the framework for this National Aviation Council already and it has been given to the prime minister for him to study it," he said at a press conference after opening the 2nd Annual Modern Railways Conference.

"The council is supposed to be an independent council and if necessary, will arbitrate differences between any players of the aviation industry.

"I cannot say anything more now

until the prime minister approves the framework," he said.

Najib had on May 3 announced that a council would be established to coordinate and regulate policies in the aviation industry and act as an intermediary between industry players. This came in light of the recent unravelling of the MAS-Air Asia share swap deal.

"With the existence of an intermediary body, which handles issues objectively, Malaysia's aviation industry growth can be better planned, orderly and systematic.

"Problems surfacing from time to time can be amicably resolved and coordinated through the council," Najib had said, adding there is a need for a dedicated body that understands the industry.

Meanwhile, Kong said the completion of the Klang Valley My Rapid Transit (MRT) project would be a great help to alleviating the congestion on the other railway lines.

"We are also working to improve feeder bus networks to complement the railway lines so there will be connectivity for the users, and we're also looking at the question of car parks for commuters who want to park their cars there," he said.

The Kajang-Sungai Buloh line of the MRT project is to be completed in 2017.

"Besides this, we are also studying the possibility of having high speed trains between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, but that will take time as there are many stakeholders involved," Kong said.