

1.0 DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) currently acts as both a regulatory body and also as the manager of the nation's airports. However, legislation is planned that which will allow for the corporatization of the 12 major airports in the country. The nominated Chairmain of the government owned corporation which will manage the airports is Tan Sri Bashi Ismail who was formerly Chairman of Bank Bumiputera, the nation's second largest commercial bank. There are two principal contenders to serve as operators of the airports. These are the British Airport Authority and a joint venture between Lockheed and local telecommunications company, Sapura Holdings.

The new corporation, probably to be called the Airport Management Corporation (AMC), is due to take over responsibility for the major airports on 12th January, 1991.

DCA will remain as mainly a regulatory body to be known as Kawal Selia. In this role it will attend to security matters and common user needs at the airports and will retain the old DCA divisions of Airport Development, Engineering, Flight Operations, Air Traffic Services, Aeronautical Communications, Fire Safety and Rescue, and Security. Kawal Selia will still have responsibility for the management of smaller rural airports.

With the corporatization of DCA, the feasibility of airport expansion projects should be scrutinized more closely since most projects will be funded from the corporation's own sources. However there may be exceptions to this in cases where the Government contributes funding in the name of community benefit or where it wishes to provide better air services as an inducement to industry to locate in certain areas.

1.1 Flight Operations Division

The Flight Operations Division is made up of three separate units, namely Air Worthiness Unit, Calibration Unit and Licensing Unit. The functions of the Air Worthiness Unit are as follows:

- i) to conduct examinations and to issue the necessary licences for aircraft engineers
- ii) to approve specification on engineering schedule for aircraft
- iii) to inspect aircraft and operator's engineering set up; and
- iv) to conduct aircraft accident investigations

The Air Worthiness Unit is also responsible for compiling the Aircraft Register summary.

The Calibration Unit currently has 4 aircraft - two King Air 200's, one Cessna 206 and one Britten Norman Islander. These are maintained and overhauled by Hawker Pacific in Singapore at an annual cost of about C\$235,000.