## **KERATAN AKHBAR**

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## Kedah MB sees clear road ahead for new Kulim airport



ALOR SETAR: Kedah menteri besar Sanusi Md Nor foresees "no more obstacles" in the way of Kedah's proposed multibillion-ringgit international airport project in Kulim, near Sungai Petani.

He said he had written to the prime minister, Ismail Sabri Yaakob, and "he basically agreed because this project is a PFI (private finance initiative) ... and if it is PFI, the federal government has no objection".

Sanusi said all matters relating to the project, including finance, land acquisition and technical requirements had also been completed or were being managed well.

"I don't see any more obstacles for us to move together to realise a high impact project for Kedah that will benefit all states in the north and Malaysia," he said according to Bernama.

The proposed airport is part of the Kedah Aerotropolis project designed to drive the state's economic transformation. The project, on an area of 3,965 hectares (almost 10,000 acres), involves the construction of the airport as well as facilities for supporting industries including an industrial park in Sidam for a logistics, aerospace and manufacturing hub.

Sanusi said the project concept and design had been completed and would be presented to the federal government for approval.

He said the approval of the Cabinet would be needed, and he would inform economics minister Mustapa Mohamed, who is responsible for the Implementation and Coordination Unit in the Prime Minister's Department, and the public-private partnership unit.

Sanusi's remarks came at the signing of an agreement between the airport developer, state-owned KXP AirportCity, with Pos Aviation and KLIA College.

Pos Aviation, a subsidiary of Pos Malaysia, is an end-user of air cargo and ground operations, while the collaboration with KLIA College is related to producing the manpower needed at Kedah Aerotropolis.