

Time to review Civil Aviation Act

AN aerial drone photograph of an aircraft approaching the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, which had been uploaded on social media sites recently, has since gone viral, raising fear and concern among the general public that it may lead to another aviation tragedy.

As the country is in the process of recovery from last year's two major aviation disasters, it is crucial for the matter to be taken seriously. The Department of Civil Aviation has warned that flying of unauthorised drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) within the area of airports is strictly prohibited under the existing laws of the country.

According to the DCA, the flying of unauthorised drones or UAV in the vicinity of airports constitutes an offence under the Civil Aviation Act 1969 and its Regulations.

However, with development of new technologies, the time may be appropriate for the authorities to review this law and make changes so that it is in line with current development especially in the aviation industry.

Beyond the military applications of UAVs with which drones have become most associated, numerous civil aviation uses have been developed, including aerial surveying of crops, acrobatic aerial footage in filmmaking, and search and rescue operations.



Action must be taken to protect our airspace from abuse by unauthorised drones or unmanned aerial vehicles.

Sadly, there are also a few irresponsible people who use this new technology for reasons like violating individual privacy or worse, to be used as a weapon to carry out acts of terrorism.

To prevent such incidents, DCA and the Transport Ministry must come up with a plan through the existing legislation to prevent any misuse of a UAV or drone in our country.

Section 3 of the Civil Aviation

Act also states that the transport minister has the power to make rulings as he considers necessary in regulating civil aviation. As such, action must be taken to ensure the safety of our aviation sector as well as to protect our airspace from abuse.

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