

# **\$100bil hardware for Langkawi show**

LANGKAWI: Countries eyeing the latest civilian and military equipment will be among those at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA '91) from Nov 11-15.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the show, the first of its kind in the region, would parade sophisticated equipment.

It is learnt that hardware totalling US\$100 billion will be on show.

He said countries interested in buying modernised equipment had been invited to the show.

"We are also calling in individuals who may be interested in owning: for instance, private executive jets," he told newsmen at the Burau Ray Resort yesterday after a five-hour stopover to inspect preparations for the show.

Some 250 participants from about 20 countries, including the United

States, Britain, the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany and Australia, have confirmed entry.

Asked whether Malaysia would also be interested to purchase hardware for its armed forces, Dr Mahathir replied: "Not really we are hosting the show for the others and also to provide an avenue for the exchange of ideas."

Dr Mahathir, who arrived by air at 8.50am, set off straight to view con-

struction work of the three-star Kuala Muda Resort and the five-star Sheraton Langkawi Resort.

Both 300-room hotels are being built specially for the show.

The \$13 million Kuala Muda Resort and the \$30 million Sheraton Langkawi Resort are expected to be built in a record two and four months respectively.

Dr Mahathir, who was satisfied with the work

progress, expressed concern whether the hotels could be ready on time.

"We may have to charter cruise ships to provide the accommodation if there are not enough hotel rooms there is little time left," he said, adding that 3,000 rooms were needed for the show.

The organisers of the show, Le' Proton Metalworks Sdn Bhd and AR Format Sdn Bhd, have booked rooms in Penang and Kuala Lumpur.