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LIMA'91 EXHIBITION A SUCCESS, MAHATHIR
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LANGKAWI, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA'91) exhibition is a success for a first time show of its kind, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+There has been a lot of seriousness on the part of the exhibitors towards this exhibition and I understand that some deals were concluded,+ he told reporters after launching the maritime exhibition of the LIMA'91 at the Kuah jetty here.

He said the success was evident in the number of aircraft, vessels and exhibitors taking part in the five-day government-supported event.

About 150 companies and their agents from 15 countries are taking part in the show which has seen at least one purchase of aircraft so far.

The Berjaya Air Charter today signed an agreement for the purchase of a Y-12 light transport aircraft from China's Harbin Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the fees charged to the exhibitors such as aircraft parking fees were not too high as the government had +more or less+ subsidised the show. --more.

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He did not believe that the LIMA'91 show was the most expensive of its kind because it was still cheaper holding it in Langkawi compared to other countries.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the present organisers should be given the chance to run the next LTMA show scheduled in 1993.

Many had commended the organisers for a +very good+ job done, considering that it was their first experience, he said.

+We know things could have been better but I am satisfied with the show,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the organisers initially wanted to do a small show and certainly did not anticipate such success especially after the Gulf War. --more.

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According to him, Langkawi is a good venue for staging aerospace exhibitions as it is far from the normal communications routes, not so busy airspace and low population density.

More and more airshows were now being held away from populated areas to counter possibility of accidents, he said, citing the case of Germany where airshows had been banned following an accident several years ago.

Earlier, when launching a pictorial book +Langkawi: Legends in the Paradise+ at the Pelangi Beach Resort, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government felt that it could make Langkawi a very successful resort island.

+In doing so, we have improved the standard of living of Langkawi islanders. Langkawi people must admit that they are prospering now,+ he said.

He also said that the government's move to promote Langkawi as the centre for aviation-based industry would create downstream and supporting service industries.

The book is the works of Malaysian photographer, C.T. Fong. --Bernama.

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