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SUCCESSFUL LIMA '91 SHOW ENDS

Mahathir-LIMA

LANGKAWI, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA '91) exhibition, which ended today, is a success, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister, who was the driving force behind the staging of 'the country's first, such exhibition, said: 'It was more successful than expected'.

'We had earlier wanted to organise a small show 'involving private jets and commuter aircraft. But, efforts made by the organisations staging the exhibition and the inclusion of a significant number of military aircraft helped made the show an outstanding event,' he told reporters at the aerospace section of the show at the international airport here, today.

He said organising such a show in Malaysia was not easy, but the government, had to ensure that it was a success for the benefit of the country.

The Prime Minister noted that there were some shortcomings such as accommodation during the show period and 'they (the shortcomings) should be a lesson to ensure that future LIMA shows are more successful.' -- more

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About 150 companies and their agents from 15 countries had taken part in the show which was opened by the Sultan of Kedah on Nov 11.

The maritime section was held at Kuah jetty 20 km away from the international airport.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said it was a qualified success.

Most of the exhibitors from international defence and defence-related companies were 'surprised' at the successful running of the show and said that they will be present at future LIMA shows, he said.

However, he said there were still rooms for improvement and a post-mortem will be conducted on the running of the show:

At a press conference, Anthony Ramasamy, Managing Director of A R Forma, one of LIMA '91 co-organisers, said it had attracted 4,971 trade visitors and 40,000 spectators.

The other organiser was Le Proton Metalworks.

According to Encik Ramasamy, the show cost about \$12.5 million of which about \$5 million was borne by the government.

Exhibitors interviewed said they were surprised that such a show could be staged on the island successfully.

'There are few exhibitions in the world where the Prime Minister of the host country visits the exhibits throughout the whole show,' said Bruce Richards, an Australian Defence Industries representative.

'It was a quality show and there were so many VIP visitors,' he added.

Among the 60-odd VIPs who visited the show was the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah, Sultan Hasannal Bol kiah of Brunei Darussalam and Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray.

T.K. Anderson of Britain's WC-Marconi said: 'No show of this nature could ever be perfect, but we are grateful to the government of Malaysia for staging the exhibition.' -- Bernama

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