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Mahathir-aerospace (with pix)

LIMA A WAY TO ENCOURAGE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) exhibition is one way to encourage aerospace industry in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said LIMA had turned out to be a big event even though it was meant to be a small-scale exhibition when it was first held in 1991.

LIMA, however, was not to compete with air shows held in other countries, he said at the launching of the helicopter charter services of Syarikat Mofaz Air at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station in Sungai Besi here.

Dr Mahathir said the coming LIMA would be held in December. --more

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Some 500 companies are expected to take part in this year's event.

On the helicopter charter service, Dr Mahathir hoped such enterprise involving transportation would succeed.

Mofaz Air will provide non-scheduled charter flights for passengers and cargo using the Bell 206L-4 LongRanger helicopter, capable of carrying six passengers.

The service is geared towards meeting growing demand for charter flights to local destinations especially those that are not served regularly by existing aircraft companies, according to the company's statement.

Dr Mahathir later took a half-hour ride in the helicopter. --Bernama