

# Being adept at everything on land, sea and air

By Ahmad A. Talib

LANGKAWI, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wish of seeing more Malaysians take to the skies in their own aircraft came closer today with the launching of Eagle Chapter 1130 here.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, in a short speech at the launching, said he wanted Malaysians to be adept at everything on land, sea and air.

"With the establishment of the Langkawi Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), I hope more Malaysians, especially the younger ones, would be encouraged to fly.

"Eagle Chapter 1130 is another one in the many chapters of the EAA. We also have the Eagle Chapter 1090 for Kuala Lumpur. With the new one, I hope young Malaysians will learn to fly under the tag name of Lang Remaja," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister also thanked the EAA for show-

ing interest in seeing Malaysia progress in aviation. At one time, Dr Mahathir said, it was impossible for ordinary people to think of flying their own aircraft but associations such as the EAA were making that possible now.

Dr Mahathir also recalled the earlier vision he had of an international maritime and aerospace show, which has now turned into Lima held every two years.

He said his original idea was only to assemble light aircraft enthusiasts to dis-

play their products at what he thought could be referred to as Oshkosh East. "Fortunately or otherwise, this has grown into Lima. And you can see how things have really developed," he said.

He said the young people's interest in aviation should encompass everything related to aviation — engineering, maintenance, assembly and flying.

His wish, Dr Mahathir said, was to see young Malaysians flying light aircraft and graduate gradually to acquire a deeper and more

sophisticated knowledge of aviation.

Also speaking at the same function, Le Proton Lima Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Radzi Manan said he would still try to organise Oshkosh East.

He said the Prime Minister's original idea could still work, considering the growing wide interest of Malaysians in aviation.

EAA representative at the launching, Robert Warner,

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## EAA will go all out to promote flying culture

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said the association was formed in 1953 and now had 867 chapters and 157,000 members worldwide.

The EAA would do whatever it could to promote a flying culture in the country because one of its objectives was to "inculcate good family values with a love for flying together", he said.

Warner then challenged the two Malaysian chapters to have enough young flyers to participate at the next Lima in 1997. He said the

association would like to have the Prime Minister as the patron for the Malaysian chapters.

Warner then gave plaques of appreciation to Dr Mahathir, Radzi and Captain K. Sivaraman, leader of the Young Eagles, for showing support and dedication to aviation in their different ways.

Le Proton Lima then presented the assembly kit of a Merlin aircraft to the Young Eagles. The kit was received by Dr Mahathir on behalf of the young enthusiasts.