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Muhyiddin-Aircraft

ALL STATES TO HAVE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia Experimental Aircraft Association (MEAA) aims to set up chapters in every state to promote air recreation, said Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today.

He said his ministry would not only help the association set up its chapters but also support the setting up of flying clubs for youth under the Rakan Muda air recreation development plan.

The Civil Aviation Department would be asked to help identify airstrips suitable for use as centres for Rakan Muda air recreation activities, he said at the opening of the "The Great Malaysian Air Rally" and launch of "Kitplane", a Rakan Muda experimental aircraft, by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here.

Only two experimental aircraft chapters exist in the country -- one here and the other in Langkawi. Under international rules, there must be at least 10 members in any area before a chapter can be set up.

Asked about the Kitplane, Muhyiddin said the aircraft was built by seven local youth under the Rakan Muda air recreation development programme. They were earlier sent for five-week's training in Oshkosh, United States.

The Kitplane is named "ERM" for "Eksperimen Rakan Muda" and would take part in the Oshkosh East Fly-In Convention and Exhibition in Langkawi from Aug 4 to 8. More than 100 aircraft are expected for the event.

Meanwhile, 20 light aircraft from various countries were flagged off by Dr Mahathir on their tour of Malaysia's numerous states before they converged in Langkawi for the Oshkosh event. They will be joined by another 50 light aircraft in Alor Setar. -- BERNAMA

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