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Busy week-long schedule for Dr M

LANGKAWI, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will certainly be the busiest man in Langkawi beginning today until the end of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition on Sunday.

Dr Mahathir's busy schedule begins tomorrow when he opens the biennial event at 9.30am at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, followed by a tour around the 21,000-square metre exhibition area.

He will also view the opening aerial display which will be led by the Royal Malaysian Air Force's aerobatic teams.

At 2.10pm, the Prime Minister will open the Lima '97 International Aerospace Conference on "Asian Aerospace and Regional Security: The Future Agenda".

He will also participate in the dialogue session at the conference and will continue with a tour of the exhibition area.

In the evening, Dr Mahathir will host the official dinner for exhibitors and those involved in organising the event at the MIEC.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister will chair the weekly Cabinet meeting at the government house at Gunung Raya before gracing the opening ceremony of the maritime division at the Star Cruises jetty in Tanjung Malai.

Huswah Sdn Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Wahab Nawi said the opening ceremony would take place about 2.30pm and this would be followed by a demonstration by Royal Malaysian Navy commandos.

This will be followed by a sail-past by sail and power boats.

A total of 12 shipborne helicopters from the various participating navies will then make a fly-past led by the RMN's Wasp helicopter squadron, KD Rajawali.

At 3pm, the Prime Minister will open the new Star Cruises Port at the same venue, followed by a tour of the maritime exhibition.

At 4.35pm, Dr Mahathir and his entourage will board the A-Khaliq, a 34.5-metre mega yacht owned by a local telecommunications tycoon to launch the first Malaysia Challenge yacht race.

This will be followed by a fleet review of the 42 participating warships, anchored at the narrow straits between Tanjung Malai and Pulau Intan Besar.

At night, the Prime Minister will attend a reception on board the British Royal Navy destroyer HMS Nottingham as well as a dinner reception on board the Star Cruises MV Megastar Taurus.

The following day, Dr Mahathir will open the Malaysia International Maritime Conference on board the MV Star Pisces at 9am.

At 10am, the Prime Minister will bless the Ro-Ro Catamaran MV Superstar Express at the Star Cruises Port and announce the Prime Minister's trophy for the fastest round-the-world race by sea.

Between 11am and noon, Wahab said Dr Mahathir would visit all four submarines berthing at the jetty followed by a meeting with all chief executive officers of the participating companies.

After lunch, Dr Mahathir will witness the signing of several memoranda of agreements and understanding on board the MV Star Pisces.

Wahab said a separate tour had also been arranged for Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and wives of other VVIP's.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir will tour the aerospace exhibition beginning 4pm, while on Saturday, he will spend time at the maritime division.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir will give away prizes at the Malaysia Challenge

International Match sailing race final, followed by lunch.
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