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DR MAHATHIR OPENS LIMA '97

LANGKAWI, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to open the fourth Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) at Padang Matsirat.

This year's six-day event sees the biggest number of participants ever with 903 companies from some 40 countries.

The show's aerospace segment is being held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC) near the Langkawi International Airport and the maritime exhibition, at Tanjung Malai some six kilometres away from the MIEC.

After the opening ceremony, Dr Mahathir will witness aerial displays by several aircraft manufacturers with the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows aerobatic team as the main attraction.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister will deliver a keynote address at the LIMA '97 International Aerospace Conference at the Helang Hotel, a newly-built luxury hotel located next to the MIEC.

He is scheduled to visit the maritime exhibition tomorrow and officiate at the commissioning of the Star Cruise jetty in Tanjung Malai.

While here, Dr Mahathir who was accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, is scheduled to chair the weekly Cabinet meeting at the Gunung Raya resort on Wednesday and open "Kampung Buku", Southeast Asia's first library village. -- BERNAMA

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