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Exhibitors will be back with bigger participation

AS an endorsement of the success of the 1997 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace show, the majority of exhibitors have indicated that they will return with even bigger teams in 1999.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday he had received favourable response from exhibitors he had met at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre and in Tanjung Malai since the show's opening on Tuesday.

The MIEC houses the aerospace segment of Lima '97 while Tanjung Malai is the site of the maritime show.

Companies from Russia, the United States, South Africa, Britain, France, Holland, Germany, Australia, Canada and Malaysia which form more than one-third of the exhibitors, had indicated their wish to be here for Lima '99.

Syed Hamid, who is also chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Lima, said many exhibitors had expressed satisfaction with the show.

"They told me that they had seen a more quality crowd, and the show was better than in 1995.

"They didn't say this out of politeness. Some were thankful to the Government for facilitating their meetings with foreign trade visitors," said Syed Hamid.

He also said a number of smart partnerships was announced between local and foreign companies involving aerospace manufacturing, manpower training and purchases of aircraft by Malaysia Airlines and flying clubs.

In addition, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the details of the blueprint on the national aerospace industry.

He denied that the Government was considering relocating the venue of the Lima series to the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang once the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang is ready next year.

"Lima and Langkawi are inseparable. Langkawi, as a legendary island, is highly visible on the global map because of Lima," he said.

Syed Hamid said the Government would overcome the shortcomings of the current Lima show.

On the setting up of metal barricades around the aircraft static display area at the reserve tarmac of the Langkawi International Airport, Syed Hamid said this was done for security and safety reasons.

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