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Aerospace Council members to be announced soon

LANGKAWI, Fri. - The appointment of members to the Malaysian Aerospace Council is expected to be announced within the next two weeks, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology joint chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli said today.

He said two members have already been identified - the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister - and it was up to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to appoint the others.

"MIGHT, which prepared the blueprint for the national aerospace policy, is only a co-ordinating body," he said, adding that it was up to the Government to appoint the members of the council.

Tajudin, who is chairman of Malaysia Airlines, said it was also up to the Government to implement the blueprint.

"However, we will give serious attention and invite our industry friends to help achieve the programme's vision," he told reporters after the launching of the national aerospace blueprint by Dr Mahathir.

Tajudin also said it was up to the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali to determine the details pertaining to the setting up of the secretariat and the agency which will co-ordinate and implement the 45-point blueprint.

Earlier, in his address at the launching of the blueprint, he said Malaysia was fortunate to have achieved a reasonable presence in the global aerospace business even without a blueprint.

"However, if we wish to be a serious player, we cannot continue without proper direction and strategies in this high technology and competitive industry," he said.

Tajudin said the aviation and aerospace industry was a capital intensive business with a long gestation period and required discipline and well-trained people to operate and manage it.

He said the blueprint covered a wide spectrum of the aviation and aerospace industry, including commercial aviation, general aviation which incorporates manufacturing of light aircraft, maintenance and overhaul, component manufacture, and space and communication systems.

Tajudin said the blueprint complemented other strategic initiatives of the Government including the Multimedia Super Corridor and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

"The strategies and recommendations provide for a structured aerospace growth that systematically improves our capability, provides benefits across industries and enhances our human and technological assets."

He said it was important that educationists ensured that schools and universities include aviation studies in their curriculum.

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