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Members of council will be known within 2 weeks

THE names of the members, which will make up the composition of the National Aerospace Council, will be announced within the next two weeks, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) joint chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli said.

He said two members have already been identified, namely Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as chairman and deputy chairman of the council respectively.

"It is now up to the Prime Minister to appoint the others. Might, which prepared the blueprint for the national aerospace policy, is only a coordinating body," he said after the launching of the blueprint for the national aerospace policy by Dr Mahathir in Langkawi, yesterday.

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

"Our role is very limited. But more important is how we can translate the applications and priorities as well as the direction effectively. These come in various aspects such as costs, human resources development and technology.

"However, we will give serious attention and invite our friends in the aviation industry to help achieve the programme's vision," he added.

Tajudin also said it is 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 to be involved in coordinating and implementing of the 45-point blueprint.

Earlier, he said Malaysia is fortunate to have achieved a reasonable presence in the global aerospace business even without a blueprint.

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

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

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, components manufacture and space and communication systems.

Tajudin said the plans also complemented other strategic initiatives of the Government such as the Multimedia Super Corridor and the KL International Airport in Sepang.

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

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