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LIMA-Crowd

PUBLIC TO CONVERGE AT BUKIT CENGKUAN TO WATCH AIRSHOW

LANGKAWI, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Bukit Cengkuan, close to Padang Matsirat here, will see a hive of activity with the hordes of people gathering to watch the aerial displays and demonstrations by world's sophisticated aircraft participating in the week-long Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA '97) Exhibition here which kicks off on Tuesday.

Langkawi district council deputy head Mansor Hj Ismail said the area would be the focus of attention given its proximity to the Langkawi International Airport.

Visitors would have a clear view from the hill top of the various aircraft taking part in LIMA 1997, he said.

Mansor said the public would be allowed to visit the exhibition at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre at Padang Matsirat on Dec 6 and 7.

About 100,000 visitors are expected at the exhibition as compared to 75,000 last year, he said.

Meanwhile, Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd, organisers of the airshow, will provide 50 mobile toilets and refuse bins to maintain cleanliness.

Its executive chairman Datuk Radzi Manan said this was to comply with the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that there must be improved cleanliness at the exhibition area.

A carnival mood prevailed on the island as thousands of local and foreign visitors began arriving for the show.

The "Langkawi Sale" at 30 supermarkets and the International Chocolate Festival, attracting large crowds over the last few days, still remain a major attraction for the visitors until the airshow begins.

Langkawi is now more than prepared to accommodate the increasing number of visitors, as much as its airport had been improved to take in larger aircraft like the Boeing 747, said a Lima official.

"Accommodation is no longer a problem as almost every three months a new hotel is built here," said a hotelier.

Langkawi has over 8,000 rooms of various types from the medium-class hotels and chalets to the five star international hotel. -- BERNAMA

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