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Muhyiddin-Plane

RAKAN MUDA KIT-PLANE CAN BE FLOWN IN TWO MONTHS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- The first Kit-Plane built under the Rakan Muda Recreational Aviation Programme can be flown in about two months from now, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

Forty-nine per cent of the work on the plane was complete and it was expected to take part in the "Langkawi Fly in Oshkosh East 1997" project, he said.

"The uniqueness of this project is that the participants themselves are involved in the design, construction and flying of the plane," he said.

"Through this, the participants particularly the young people will benefit not only from the recreational aspect but also through exposure to aeronautical engineering," he said at the launching of the work on the kit-plane and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Rakan Muda Kit-Plane project at the military airport in Sungai Besi, near here.

He said the Kit-Plane project, an inspiration from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, could provide a challenge and instill a sense of high creativity among the young so that they would ultimately venture into high technology.

Muhyiddin said seven young Malaysians who were sent to the Oshkosh University in the United States for kit-plane training returned home at the end of last month and began work on the plane with full enthusiasm.

Though it was a small project on a pilot basis when viewed from the aspect of the development of the aviation industry as a whole it was nevertheless a major step and a psychological boost to them, he said.

He said the government had allocated \$10 million under the current Seventh Malaysia Plan to set up recreational aviation centres for the benefit of flying clubs which would be set up by youth and recreational associations.

Muhyiddin also said his ministry would encourage the setting up of experimental flying clubs at state level to expose more youths and the general public to such aviation activities.

He hoped kit-plane flying would be taken up as a hobby in the various states. -- BERNAMA

AH AAM