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Supersonic, light aircraft to feature at air carnival

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - For the first time fighter jets will be displayed, together with other light aircraft, at an air carnival scheduled from Dec 5 to 7 in Pulau Langkawi.

The fighter jets comprise the Royal Malaysian Air Force's newly-acquired MiG-29N air superiority fighters, F/A-18D Hornet maritime strike and interdiction jets, British Aerospace Hawk 100/200 advanced trainers and Swiss PC-7 turbo-props.

These supersonic aircraft will be the highlight of the Langkawi Air Carnival which will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Langkawi International Airport in Padang Matsirat.

At the carnival, which is the finale for the year's calendar of aviation events, student Rohini Sivaraman, 18, and former Tenaga Nasional Bhd executive chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope, 65, will be honoured by Dr Mahathir as the country's youngest and oldest of qualified civilian Malaysian pilots respectively.

The carnival is jointly organised by the Department of Civil Aviation and the Langkawi Development Authority.

DCA director-general Datuk Zaini Omar said today the only other time so many fighter jets congregated at a single local air show was probably at the biennial Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition.

"We decided to host the air carnival to promote aviation, its safety aspects and foster co-operation among the aviation fraternity," Zaini said.

A total of 45 aircraft, including helicopters, from the flying clubs of Malaysia and Singapore and those from the RMAF, Experimental Aircraft Association of Malaysia, Syarikat Malaysia Explosives Technologies and private owners will participate in the event.

Besides the aerial display, there would also be parajumps, flour-bombing and spot-landing competitions and joy rides for the public. Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik is expected to close the carnival.

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