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CAESE provides impetus to local aerospace industry

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The defence industry's indigenous aerospace component is shaping up firmly, following the full implementation of the Central Aerospace Engineering Services Establishment (CAESE) at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang.

With CAESE in full bloom, Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Abu Mustapha said the RMAF was able to engage in smart partnerships with local companies, with minimal hinderance.

He identified five core projects, namely the PC-7 turbo trainer flight simulator, electronic warfare systems, the logistics intelligence information "expert" systems, unmanned airborne vehicle and the integrated computer management system.

The RMAF is jointly developing the PC-7 turbo trainer flight simulator with Ikramatic Systems Sdn Bhd; the electronic warfare system with Telekom Malaysia Bhd, Systems Consultations Services Sdn Bhd and Tiara Communications Sdn Bhd; the "expert" systems with Sapura Advance Systems Sdn Bhd and Pointgate Sdn Bhd; the unmanned airborne vehicle with Syarikat Modus Verticraft Sdn Bhd; and, the integrated computer management system with Sapura Advance Systems.

"CAESE was set up to conduct research and development, and prepare and provide engineering services maintenance for the RMAF, without totally depending on foreign expertise," Abang Abu Bakar said after a working visit to the facility.

Also present were RMAF chief Lt Jen Datuk Seri Ahmad Saruji Che Rose, CAESE director Kol Rosdi Mahmud and senior RMAF officers.

Abang Abu Bakar said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the prime mover in developing an indigenous aerospace industry, would be invited to visit CAESE in September.

"By then (September), we hope to showcase some of the developed indigenous projects and later on, at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition in late November," he added.

Ikramatic Systems has succeeded in indigenously developing a PC-7 prototype flight simulator, thus making a significant breakthrough in this region.

The RMAF, which operates up to 39 PC-7s, is poised to be the launch customer later this year.

CAESE is under the ambit of the Malaysian Defence Industry Council which is chaired by Abang Abu Bakar. The council acts as a forum for the Government and local defence industries to jointly develop the industry.

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