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Aircraft

CLUB TO PROMOTE LOCALLY ASSEMBLED RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT

LANGKAWI, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi Air Recreation Club (KRUL) plans to promote its locally assembled Merlin-GT Amfibia light amphibious aircraft in several states soon.

"The two-seater aircraft is suitable for recreational activities and island-hopping," KRUL deputy president Mansor Ismail told Bernama here today.

The club's instructor Kapt Zainol Taib, assisted by Mej (Rtd) Ahmad Radzi Hashim, is currently conducting test flights with the aircraft.

Mansor said it took Zainol about five months to assemble the RM70,000 aircraft with help from employees of the MOFAZ Group, which allowed the club to use its hangar for free.

KRUL crew had also undergone training at the aircraft manufacturer's plant in the United States, he said.

The club received the aircraft's components as a gift from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) in 1995.

However, it did not assemble the aircraft then because of financial problems and the difficulty in sourcing equipment.

Mansor said the Prime Minister's Department also contributed to the purchase of equipment.

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