

09 OCT 2001

LIMA-Najib

INCREASED NUMBER OF GUESTS SHOWS TRUST TOWARDS MALAYSIA

LANGKAWI, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- The increased number of government guests at the maritime and air show, here, is clear testimony of the confidence and trust that foreign governments have towards Malaysia despite concerns about travelling abroad under the current conditions.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA '01) would receive a nine per cent increase in the number of government guests compared to the previous LIMA held in 1999.

The guests include Ministers, Secretaries-General, Defence Forces Chiefs, Service Chiefs and Police Chiefs, he said at the opening of LIMA '01 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said LIMA '01, the sixth in the series, was planned to be the biggest and the best LIMA since its inception in 1991 but the tragic Sept 11 events in the United States had a global impact including on LIMA '01.

The number of aircraft participating has declined by about 20 per cent from LIMA '99.

There are 96 aircraft this time including Su-30MK new generation multi-role long-range fighter bombers, Antonov AN24, the world's largest transport aircraft, Be-200 the world's first amphibious jet plane, all from Russia, F/18 E/F Super Hornet from the United States and Malaysian first Eagle aircraft Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

However, Najib said, LIMA '01 has received a slight increase in the floor space taken up by about 300 aerospace exhibitors from 27 countries.

The exhibitors include Boeing Company of the United States, BAe Systems (United Kingdom), Sukhoi Design Bureau and MiG Mapo (Russia).

Najib said there has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of floor space taken up by 300 exhibitors from 22 countries for the maritime segment.

Among the star attractions at the maritime segment are multi-purpose ship "Its San Guisto" from the Italian Navy, French-made helicopter Fenec used by the Royal Malaysian Navy Air Wing and CB-90H a special strike force combat boat from Sweden,

The aerospace segment which is held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, adjacent to the Langkawi International Airport, is organised by Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd.

The maritime segment is organised by HW LIMA Sdn Bhd at the Star Cruise Terminal, Porto Malai, here.

LIMA will be on until Oct 14 with the first four days open to trade visitors and invited guests only and the remaining two days open to the public with a fee of RM20 per entry for adults and RM10 for children (ages 7-16 years old).

Apart from static display of aircraft and ships at both segments, there will also be aerial display and aerobtic shows at the aerospace section throughout the exhibition.

LIMA is a meeting point for aerospace and maritime exhibitors and traders to showcase their latest state-of-the-art products and technologies and make crucial inroads into the growing defence markets in this region.

Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

-- BERNAMA

JM NH AAM

