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LIMA-AQUACULTURE

LSFSB GUIDES EX-SERVICEMEN IN AQUACULTURE

LANGKAWI, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- A member of the Halim Mazmin group of companies, Langkawi Sea Farms Sdn Bhd (LSFSB) would be providing technical guidance and other necessary assistance to ex-servicemen of the Malaysian Armed Forces in aquaculture.

To start off the programme, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between LSFSB and representatives of retired Malaysian Armed Forces personnel and Kilim Area Fisherman's Association in Langkawi.

LSFSB was represented by its executive chairman, Tan Sri Datuk Halim Mohammad while Sgt Major (retired) Ibrahim Kassim signed on behalf the ex-servicemen and Azmi Darus on behalf the Fishermen's Association in Sungai Kilim.

The event held at the maritime segment of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 2001 Exhibition (LIMA '01) was witnessed by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Minister of Defence Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak and Minister of Agriculture Datuk Dr Mohd Effendi Norwawi.

Executive chairman, Halim Mazmin Bhd, Tan Sri Datuk Halim Mohamad said in a press release that the voluntary programme aimed to provide retired Armed Forces personnel the opportunity to take up a viable economic vocation that would allow them to become successful entrepreneurs in aquaculture industry.

Under the programme, selected ex-servicemen would get a first hand opportunity to learn the fundamentals of aquaculture and techniques in breeding, feeding and harvesting fish from open sea cages owned by LSFSB

The move of LSFSB has the full support of the government, especially the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Aquaculture as part of their responsibility to provide ex-servicemen to acquire the skills and training to cope with civilian life and secure employment upon retirement.

The involvement of ex-servicemen in aquaculture would contribute towards the fulfillment of the national objective of promoting greater self sufficiency in the food industries in Malaysia.

The high import bill on food of more than RM1.2 billion, including fresh and frozen fish, has been a source of concern to the Malaysian government.

The government has identified aquaculture as a growth sector with vast potential not only to meet the domestic demand and save the outflow of foreign exchange but also exports and thus earn valuable foreign exchange.

-- BERNAMA

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