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RMAF-Sukhoi

SUKHOI SU-30MK EVALUATION REPORT NOW WITH GOVERNMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- The Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) has completed its evaluation of the Russian-made Sukhoi SU-30MK fighter jets, RMAF chief Jen Datuk Seri Suleiman Mahmud said today.

He said the RMAF had submitted the evaluation report to the government for it to decide whether to buy the SU-30MK or not.

"The team of evaluators has completed its study and the report has been submitted. Now it is up to the government and Prime Minister to decide," he told reporters after launching the Defence Ministry's ILMU system and library website here.

Early this year, the RMAF sent two teams to the United States and Russia to evaluate the capabilities of the Sukhoi SU-30MK and Boeing-made Super Hornet FA-18 E/F fighter jets.

However, Suleiman said the team that undertook the evaluation of the Super Hornet had yet to complete its task.

Suleiman declined to reveal the criteria used by the evaluators.

When visiting Russia recently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his delegation watched a demonstration on the Sukhoi jets, which can be equipped with various types of weapons and guided missiles.

Suleiman also said the 10 Mil-17 Russian-made utility helicopters to be acquired by Malaysia would be used by the army's air corps.

For a start, RMAF pilots would be seconded to the army to operate the helicopters, he said.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has recently announced that the government had agreed to buy the helicopters from Russia.

Negotiations on the purchase contract and specifications will begin soon.

-- BERNAMA

MHI AHH YBY