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Mahathir-Aircraft

MAHATHIR WITNESSES DEMO BY BOMBADIER'S CL-415MP AIRCRAFT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today witnessed a demonstration by Bombardier Aerospace's CL-415 Multi-Purpose Amphibious aircraft in a rescue and fire-fighting mission.

The 30-minute demonstration was part of a proposal by the Canada-based company to impress the Malaysian government into buying several of the aircraft, especially for the Fire and Rescue Department.

Today's display, which was also attended by other government officials at the Mines Resort lake, was delayed for almost an hour as the aircraft suffered some minor mechanical problems before take-off.

Tom Appleton, Bombardier Aerospace's president for amphibious aircraft, briefed Dr Mahathir on the capabilities of the aircraft, including its ability to scoop 6,000 litres of water in 40 seconds without stopping.

Also present at the demonstration were Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding and Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk M. Kayveas.

The aircraft also demonstrated its on-air manoeuvrability as well as short-landing on the lake to offload personnel and equipment in a Search And Rescue (SAR) mission.

The CL-415MP is also designed to land on unsurfaced runways, which is vital during disasters in remote locations.

Besides fire-fighting and SAR missions, the aircraft can also perform maritime law enforcement and coastal patrols as it can be equipped with various sensors.

The Bombardier CL-415MP aircraft has a highly productive search time of four hours at a 370km (200 nautical miles) radius of action and a speed of 180 knots.

The CL-415MP is tagged at RM128 million per aircraft, inclusive of training packages and to date 56 units have been ordered by several foreign governments.

-- BERNAMA

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