

07 MAY 2002

Mahathir-Aerospace

REALISING AEROSPACE INDUSTRY THROUGH GENERAL AVIATION

PUTRAJAYA, May 7 (bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad chaired the 2nd Malaysian Aerospace Council Meeting at his office here today.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

A statement issued by the Malaysian Industrial Government Group For Hi-Tech (Might) after the meeting said it focused on the agenda of realising the aerospace industry through general aviation.

General aviation, according to the statement, refers to diverse and varied aviation activities connected to all airborne craft except those relating to military, large commercial airline transportation and space.

It said Malaysia had already established a start in the area of general aviation in the mid-90's with the production of the Eagle aircraft.

Might said the light aircraft manufacturing industry was also being reviewed as the focus of the nation's general aviation activities since Malaysia had the experience in research and development, certification and marketing of light aircraft.

"This was further enhanced when Malaysia became the first Asian country to obtain the US Federal Aviation Administration Certification and the bilateral aviation services agreement," he added.

General aviation had various potentials which could be exploited to spur the development of other areas in the aviation industries.

These included the creation of critical mass for the comprehensive development of the industries, a large global market and the enhancement of technological capability, it said.

The Malaysian Aerospace Council is the national-level steering and decision-making committee for the development of the aerospace industry in Malaysia.

It comes under the framework for the aerospace industry in Malaysia and is one of the 45 recommendations contained in the national aerospace blueprint.

-- BERNAMA

SR AKT ZS JK