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LIMA-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR SATISFIED WITH LIMA 2003

LANGKAWI, Oct 3 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the architect of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) exhibition, today expressed satisfaction with the running of the seventh edition of the biggest maritime and aerospace show in the region.

"I think it has gone on very well, although the number of companies participating may be a bit less (at this LIMA) but the quality of the participants is very high," he said.

He said the exhibitors at this edition of LIMA were "serious exhibitors" and the exhibition this time around saw more than 100 aircraft with some spectacular displays.

"There were also a lot of business done both in the maritime show as well as here (aerospace) and I am very satisfied," he told a press conference here.

The six-day LIMA 2003 is divided into two segments and the exhibition for trade visitors ended today. The next two days of the show is dedicated to the public.

The Prime Minister also hoped that the next LIMA would be better than previous editions of the maritime and aerospace show.

On the commitment of companies to continue their support for future LIMA exhibitions, he said: "I hope they (LIMA exhibitions) will be bigger than this, if there are no problems, like the SARS or any other problems."

Asked if he would attend the next LIMA he said: "I don't know."

As to whether he would assist in attracting foreign companies to attend LIMA 2005, the Prime Minister said he would give talks if asked. "But if (you) ask me to contribute money, (I) can't promote it."

When asked on his feelings since this would be the last LIMA before his resignation from all government positions at the end of the month, Dr Mahathir said in jest: "Well, I am going to have a good rest... you want me to cry?."

Asked on military cooperation between Russia and Malaysia, he said cooperation between the two countries was good and growing all the time.

"Certainly we are also keen to cooperate in non-military fields and also in the field of civilian aircraft.

"We give priority to our national interest, so we are prepared to cooperate with anyone as long as they transfer their technology to us," Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, the Prime Minister launched LIMA 2005 which would be held from Dec 6 to 11, 2005.

He also witnessed the exhibitors signing ceremony by representatives from companies which included Eurocopter Malaysia, PJS Industries Sdn Bhd, Sukhoi and Composite Technology Research Malaysia. All these companies have given their undertaking to participate in LIMA 2005.

-- BERNAMA

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