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LIMA-BOAT

LOCAL BOAT BUILDER GEARING TO EXPORT ITS SPEED BOAT

By: Zulkafli Ibrahim

LANGKAWI, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Destination Marine Services Sdn Bhd, a local boat building company is in talks to export its speed boat to several countries in the near future.

Its executive director Ibrahim Ali Haji Abdul Wahab said that several countries such as Yemen, Qatar and Vietnam were interested in buying the boats made by the company.

"We are at the final stages of discussions with these countries on the sale of the boats," he told Bernama at the ongoing 2003 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Marine Segment) here today.

He said the boats to be built ranged in sizes from 10 to 18 metres while the prices would depend on the accessories requested by the clients.

Up till now, the request for the boats have been made by the government departments from the said countries.

Work on the boats would start once the company has completed building boats ordered by the Fire and Safety Department and the Customs Department, Ibrahim said.

He said the company had already completed building five fire-fighting craft with each one priced at RM1.8 million.

A ceremony for the handing over of the boats would be held at the Awana Porto Malai here Thursday. The event is expected to be witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Apart from these boats, the company has also built two of the 10 boats ordered by the Customs Department, both of which would be also delivered Thursday.

Ibrahim said the production of the first boats were on a trial basis and the company expected to get more orders, in view of the fact that Malaysia had a long coast line -- 3,000km -- that required monitoring.

He said the company used local materials for the building of the boats which took between three and four months to be completed.

The company has 250 workers and its dockyards are located in Johor Baharu and Port Klang.

Meanwhile, the deputy chief director (Operations) Fire Department, Datuk Hamzah Abu Bakar said any purchase of an extra boat by the department would depend on its financial standing.

"We do need the extra boat though, not only for fighting fire but it could be used for rescue operations and control of oil spills," he said. --

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