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LIMA-Future

GOVT WORKING ON NEW IDEAS FOR BETTER LIMA IN FUTURE - NAJIB

LANGKAWI, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- The Government is considering implementing new ideas to stage a better Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) Exhibition in future, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"We have a few ideas but it is still at the discussion stage. It is too early for me to say what we are going to do but our aim is to make Malaysia the centre for maritime and aerospace exhibition in this region and one of the best in the world," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given a few ideas and "we will follow up on them," he said.

"If it's a success, we'll tell you," Najib, who is also Cabinet Committee Chairman for LIMA '03, told a media conference on the sixth and final day of LIMA '03.

Dr Mahathir said on Friday he would assist in the staging of future LIMA after he retires end of this month.

"We will talk to him. He is still the Prime Minister, once he retires and had his rest, we will talk to him on the role he can play (for LIMA).

"He has given his assurance to assist and I am confident he will have a fitting role to play," he said.

To a question if the government had any plans to check the high prices of food and accommodation on this island resort during LIMA, Najib said this was a normal trend worldwide when an international event was held.

"We must understand hoteliers in Langkawi were under a lot of pressure during the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) epidemic and lost the tourists but if they can get a bit of profit now, then it can offset their losses during the SARS outbreak," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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