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Abdullah-Lima

LANGKAWI WILL REMAIN VENUE FOR LIMA, SAYS ABDULLAH

LANGKAWI, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Langkawi will continue to be the venue for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima), Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

Dismissing rumours that future exhibitions would be held in Kuala Lumpur, the deputy prime minister said Langkawi would continue to host the biennial event which had been held here since its inauguration in 1991.

Reporters had asked him whether the venue for Lima would be shifted just before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a four-day stay here.

Besides attending the opening of Lima 2003 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday, Abdullah also toured the exhibition.

With the impending retirement of Dr Mahathir, who had chosen Langkawi as the exhibition venue, some foreign delegates had asked the organisers whether Lima would shift to Kuala Lumpur.

Asked about the organisation of this edition of Lima, Abdullah said it was better than the previous ones and was more popular in terms of participation.

A total of 600 participants from 25 countries are taking part in the aerospace segment.

"I'm happy to see the local companies taking part in Lima and displaying all types of products," Abdullah said.

Many of the participants had told him they they would come again, he said.

He said Lima had brought lots of benefits to the aviation and aerospace industry besides promoting Langkawi as a tourist destination.

Meanwhile, Yusuf Manan, executive director of Le Proton, the organiser of the aerospace segment, said the date for the next Lima would revert to December to add gaiety to the event and to enable more people to attend.

However, he was happy with the good response this year despite the date change to October.

He believed that more companies would participate if Lima was held in December.

Companies taking party in this year's Lima had been invited to Lima 2005, he said when met at the aerospace segment site at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Hall here.

-- BERNAMA

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