

22/09/2003

Treat in store for Langkawi folk on Oct 3

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Langkawi residents are in for a treat at this year's Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima `03) exhibition.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and government officials will join the residents at a gathering on Oct 3.

Defence Ministry deputy secretary-general Siti Azizan Abood said the gathering would be held for the first time since the exhibition's inception in 1991. "There will be a number of well-known local artistes performing in the night," she said.

Siti Azizan said the Government had invited about 200 guests from 37 countries to attend the exhibition between Sept 30 and Oct 5.

"So far, the Sultan of Brunei has confirmed acceptance," she said.

The Sultan is also the sultanate's Defence Minister.

Others invited are 40 defence ministers, 12 transport ministers, 18 chief secretaries to the Government, 20 armed forces chiefs, 31 navy chiefs, 39 air force chiefs, nine police chiefs, nine Customs Department director-generals and five marine police chiefs.

Ninety-five of those invited have confirmed they would be attending or would send a representative.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force will provide VIP shuttle service from the Subang air base for visiting dignitaries.

Siti Azizan said both the maritime and aerospace segments of Lima `03 would see signings of memoranda of understanding, letters of intent and letters of agreements.

The maritime segment is organised by HW Lima Sdn Bhd, while the aerospace segment is organised by Le Proton Lima Sdn Bhd.

The New Straits Times is the official media for the exhibitions which will be held at Awana Porto Malai (maritime) and the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre near the Langkawi International airport at Padang Matsirat.

This year's exhibition is the seventh Lima and is not limited to trade visitors as the public is allowed into the exhibition halls and static display areas on the last two days.