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**Brand new:** Najib launching the Lipanbara at the DSA 2016 in PWTC. Looking on is Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Johari Baharum (second from right), Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Abdul Rahim Mohd Radzi (right) and Zulkefli (left).

## PM unveils troops' latest mean machine

**KUALA LUMPUR:** It is called the Lipanbara and is the latest armoured vehicle to be deployed at volatile areas by security troops.

Unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the High Mobility Armoured Vehicle (HMAV) 4x4, is named after the poisonous centipede found in Malaysian jungles.

It will be used mainly for insertion and extraction of security troops and escort duties.

The Prime Minister, who was

accompanied by Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Armed Forces chief Gen Tan Sri Zulkefli Mohd Zin and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, also took a tour of other exhibits at the 15th Defence Services Asia (DSA) Exhibition and Conference 2016.

The armoured vehicle has a maximum payload of two tonnes as well as a machine gun (M134D-H Gatling Gun 7.62mm from Dillon Aero), laser warning system and a 76mm

grenade launcher system.

The first Lipanbara, which is a collaboration between DRB-HICOM Defence Technologies Sdn Bhd (Deftech) and Chaseri Co Ltd of Thailand under the Asean Defence Industry initiative, is expected to be delivered to the Armed Forces by the middle of the year.

Deftech was given the contract to prepare 20 units for the Government.

Deftech also displayed the AV8 Gempita variant – an anti-tank

guided missile equipped armoured wheeled vehicle – which will be employed by the Armoured Regiment and Mechanised Units of the Armed Forces.

Deftech group chief executive officer Lt Kol Datuk Amril Samsudin said the Armed Forces would be equipped with 54 units by 2020.

“It will be the most sophisticated system in the Malaysian Army inventory and set to transform the dynamics of modern battle,” he said.