



A yet to be completed littoral combat ship at the Boustead Naval Shipyard in Lumut, Perak, FILE PIC

No more middlemen in defence procurement

KUALA LUMPUR: The government aims to cut out the involvement of middlemen in defence procurement and will deal directly with foreign governments on such deals.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the debacle over the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) issue should not be repeated.

“The safety of the country has to be preserved to ensure peace and harmony.

“Weaknesses in procurement practices have affected the country’s defence readiness. The procurement of the LCS cost more than RM6 billion, yet not even

one vessel has been completed.

“Such incidences cannot be repeated. From now, we need to eliminate the involvement of middlemen and deal with (foreign) governments directly (in procurement matters),” he said while tabling the 2023 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat.

Anwar announced an allocation of RM18.5 million for the Home Ministry and RM17.7 billion for the Defence Ministry for 2023. He said the bulk of the allocation, namely RM4.1 billion, would go towards the maintenance and purchase of armed forces assets to increase the nation’s level of readiness.