

# PM: Lima will boost nation as regional aerospace, maritime hub

**LANGKAWI:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim hopes the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition 2023 (Lima '23) will strengthen Malaysia's role as a regional hub for the aerospace and maritime industries.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said this would enable the country to move closer to realising the Malaysian Aerospace Industry Blueprint and the Malaysia Shipping Master Plan.

"I would like, in particular, to congratulate and thank the two co-lead ministers for Lima '23, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Transport Minister Anthony Loke, as well as their teams for driving this initiative."

He said this in his welcoming speech at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC)

Before witnessing the awarding of a contract for the Kuala Linggi International Port project.

Anwar said in 2021, Malaysia's aerospace industry value was estimated at RM1.375 trillion, and the maritime industry was estimated to be worth nearly RM800 billion.

He said Lima was a unique exhibition in that it combined aerospace and maritime, positioning it as a prominent event in Asia Pacific

"Of course, the attraction for Lima goes beyond its sentimental value because, from one edition to the next, the exhibition has become known for uniting both industries by showcasing the latest technology and innovation, besides discussing issues related to the sectors.

"In fact, after the exhibition was expanded beyond the de-



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looking at exhibits at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2023 at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH*

fence industry, the introduction of commercial elements since 2019 means the event has even better prospects."

Anwar also visited the exhibitors' booths at MIEC.

It is expected that nearly RM18 billion in deals in the defence and commercial sectors will be inked in Lima '23.

Later, Anwar witnessed the signing of an agreement between Weststar Aviation Services, Southeast Asia's largest offshore helicopter transportation services provider, and Italian company Leonardo for the purchase of helicopters and a tiltrotor aircraft. The deal was for five AW139 helicopters and an AW609 tiltro-

tor aircraft.

Weststar, in fact, will become the first company in Asia to operate the AW609..

Present were Italian Ambassador to Malaysia Massimo Rustico, Loke, Italian Vice-Minister of Transport Edoardo Rixi and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh.