

PM CONFIDENT ABOUT LCS PROGRESS

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He describes programme as a historic milestone as ships are being built entirely by Malaysians

FUAD NIZAM
AND ZAHRATULHAYAT MAT ARIF
LUMUT
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed confidence in the progress of the Royal Malaysian Navy's (RMN) littoral combat ship (LCS) project, stating that it is progressing on schedule with no compromise on integrity or governance.

He described the LCS programme as a historic milestone as the ships are being constructed entirely by Malaysian talent, expertise and capabilities.

"I have strong confidence that with the firm commitment of the RMN and the shipbuilder, Lumut Naval Shipyard Sdn Bhd, the project can be completed successfully, placing the sovereignty of our national waters at an excellent and exemplary level."

He said this in a Facebook post after receiving a project briefing and visiting LCS1, which is un-

dergoing testing.

The Defence Ministry said LCS2 was successfully downslipped (lowered into the water) on May 8 and is undergoing subsequent construction work.

It said the Setting to Work (STW) phase is set to start in September.

LCS1, which was downslipped on May 23 last year, entered the STW phase in May this year, with its first sea trial scheduled for December.

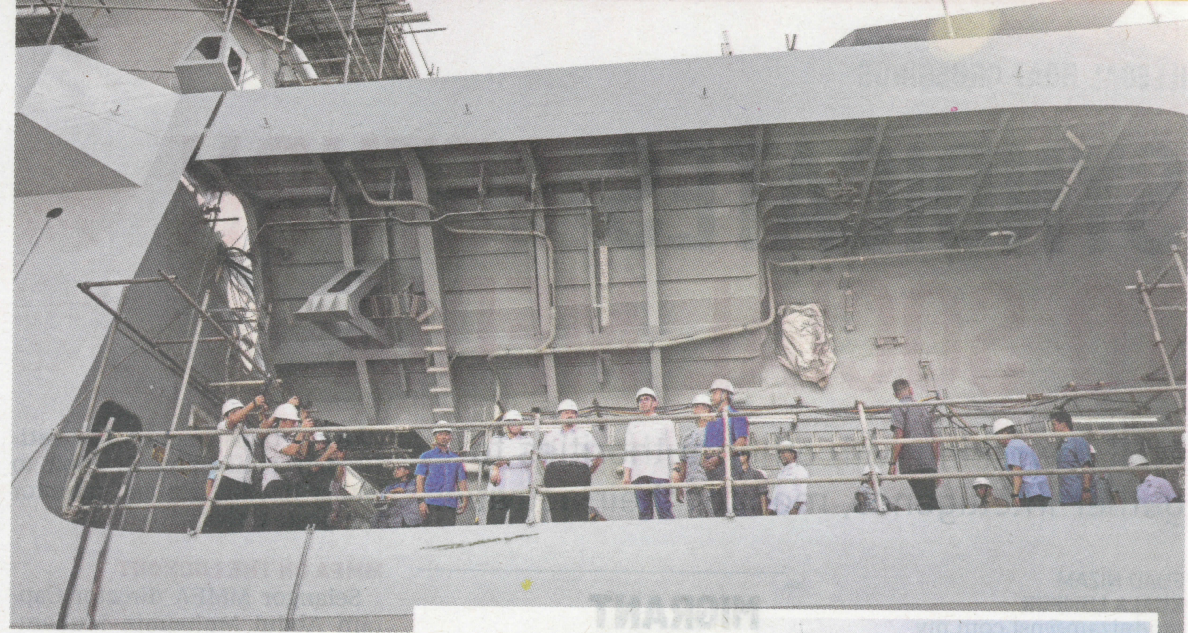
Up to May 25, the progress of all five LCS vessels stood at 72.43 per cent.

LCS3 is expected to be delivered in 2027, with the remaining ships to follow at eight-month intervals. The final vessel, LCS5, is slated for completion in 2029.

The ministry said construction remained on track and was subject to strict monitoring by stakeholders.

Later during the Kenduri Rakyat event held in line with the Perak Madani Rakyat programme, Anwar announced several major project allocations totalling more than RM300 million for the Lumut naval base to enhance the well-being and welfare of RMN personnel.

They include RM65 million to build a specialist clinic complex and upgrade the armed forces hospital, RM100 million to upgrade the 33kV high-voltage distribution



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looking at the progress of work on the littoral combat ships at the Lumut Naval Shipyard yesterday. (Inset) LCS1 docked at the Lumut naval base.

BERNAMA PIX

system, RM23.3 million to replace the Bulk Fuel Installation operational tanks and RM66.5 million to upgrade the operational jetty.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, urged state officials to expedite the clinic and hospital upgrades for the benefit of RMN personnel.

He said several ongoing infrastructure projects at the RMN base showed encouraging progress.

They include the upgrading of the fresh water supply piping system, construction of Pusat Anak Permata Negara, slope repairs at Bukit Perwira, lightning protection upgrades at the Ammunition and Explosives Depot, major repairs to staff quarters and dredging works at the jetty.

"Some works, such as housing upgrades and the fresh water supply system, are pending completion, but overall, we're seeing good progress."

Anwar said under the Madani Economy initiative at the naval base, RM65,000 had been allocated for an urban mushroom



farming project with Universiti Teknologi Mara and RM50,000 for a honeydew melon farming initiative with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

He highlighted the introduction of a work-based learning programme aimed at formally recognising the experience of armed forces personnel with qualifications equivalent to a diploma.

He said hundreds of millions of ringgit had been allocated for youth and personnel training in fields such as artificial intelligence and digital technology.

In addition, Anwar announced a RM20 million allocation to upgrade 34 schools in armed forces

camps, including improvements to toilets and laboratories, to provide a more conducive learning environment for the children of armed forces personnel.

"I do not want the children of our armed forces personnel, whose fathers spend weeks and months at sea or in the air, to be left without adequate facilities for learning," he said.

At the event, Anwar presented contributions to 98 children of RMN personnel who obtained the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia certification. The donations were from the Prime Minister's Office.

More than 1,500 RMN personnel and guests attended the event.