

Anwar unveils major upgrades at Lumut navy base

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LUMUT: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced several approved development projects for the Royal Malaysian Navy base in Lumut, aimed at enhancing both the welfare and operational capacity of military personnel.

A total of RM65 million has been allocated for the construction of a specialist clinic complex and the upgrading of the Armed Forces hospital at the base.

Additionally, RM100 million has been approved for upgrading a 33kV high-voltage distribution system, RM23.3 million for the replacement of Bulk Fuel Installation operational tanks and RM66.5 million for improvements to the operational jetty.

Anwar urged the Perak State Secretary to expedite the implementation of the specialist clinic and hospital upgrades for the benefit of navy personnel.

He made the announcement while attending the Kenduri Rakyat event with navy personnel in conjunction with the Perak Madani Rakyat 2025 programme.

Also present were Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil and Navy Chief Datuk Zulhelmy Ithnain.

Anwar also praised the progress of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) project at Lumut Naval Shipyard (Lunas), describing it as "commendable" and underscoring its importance to national defence.

He said the improvements reflect the Madani government's commitment to transparency and maritime security.



Anwar meeting Royal Malaysian Navy personnel during the visit yesterday.
—BERNAMAPIC

Highlighting past delays due to poor governance, mismanagement and corruption, he emphasised that strong leadership is essential to ensure national defence capabilities

are not compromised.

Earlier, Anwar visited the Lunas facility to inspect ongoing LCS construction.

He was accompanied by Defence Deputy

Minister Adly Zahari and Armed Forces Chief Jen Tan Sri Mohd Nizam Jaffar.

The Defence Ministry later confirmed that LCS1 was launched on May 23, in line with the contractual schedule.

The vessel is now in the "setting to work" phase and is expected to undergo its first sea trial in December.

LCS2, launched earlier on May 8, is still under construction, with its setting to work phase scheduled to begin in September.

Construction of LCS3 through LCS5 remains on track.

LCS3 is expected to be delivered to the navy in 2027, with the remaining ships following at eight-month intervals.

The final vessel, LCS5, is scheduled for handover in 2029.

The Defence Ministry credited close coordination with agencies such as the Finance and Economy ministries, Prime Minister's Department Implementation Coordination Unit and the Attorney-General's Chambers for helping to overcome earlier setbacks and ensure smooth implementation.

Once marred by delays and controversy, the LCS project is now considered vital to bolstering maritime defence.

Built for coastal operations, the vessels are expected to enhance the capacity to protect national waters. The government has reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and timely delivery, aiming to make the LCS fleet a cornerstone of Malaysia's naval strength in the years ahead. — Bernama