

# 'LIMA '25 MUST BOOST INNOVATION OF SMEs'

**Malaysian firms must be given help to penetrate international markets, says PM**

AMALIA AZMI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
amalia.azmi@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed organisers of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 (Lima '25) to focus on strengthening local companies, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The prime minister's senior press secretary, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah, said Malaysian firms should be given help to penetrate international markets.

"The prime minister stressed that Lima '25 was not merely an exhibition of assets and technology, but a strategic platform for fostering collaboration between governments, industry players and educational institutions.

"It brings together key stakeholders in the defence and commercial aviation sectors, including those involved in MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul),

Internet of Things, satellite and space technologies," he said during the Prime Minister's Office daily briefing yesterday.

Tunku Nashrul said the exhibition reflected Malaysia's commitment to strengthening its position as a regional and global maritime and aerospace hub.

He said Lima '25, scheduled for May 20-24, was also expected to stimulate economic growth by attracting foreign direct investment and boosting tourism and international trade.

"The prime minister hopes preparations will proceed smoothly, and warmly welcomes exhibitors, investors and visitors from Malaysia and abroad to make Lima '25 one of the most significant editions," he said.

Lima was first organised in 1991 and is one of the largest maritime and aerospace exhibitions in Southeast Asia.

This year's edition will see the participation of 102 aircraft and 35 naval vessels.

Sixty-four aircraft will perform aerobatics, solo flights and be part of the opening flypast, and 38 will be on static display.

Lima '25 co-organiser Global Exhibitions and Conferences Sdn Bhd had told the *New Straits Times* that several renowned aerobatic teams had confirmed their attendance, including the Russian Knights from Russia, Jupiter from Indonesia, and Surya Kiran

from India.

Among the planes on static display will be assets from key Malaysian agencies, such as the Royal Malaysian Air Force, army, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, the Fire and Rescue Department and police.

Foreign aircraft on static display include the Royal Brunei Air Force's S-70i Black Hawk, the German air force's Airbus A400M, the Italian air force's P-72A and the Canadian air force's CP-140 Aurora.

The Singaporean air force will showcase its F-15SG jet fighter and CH-47D Chinook and AH-64D Apache helicopters, and the Russian air force will display its Ilyushin IL-76 transport plane.

The United States military will display the F/A-18 Hornet, C-2 Greyhound, C-12 Huron, C-130J Hercules and MH-60 Seahawk.

The Indian navy will participate with its Dornier 228 aircraft.

The maritime display will include 15 ships from the Royal Malaysian Navy, five from the MMEA and 15 from foreign navies.

Notable foreign warships include ITS *Antonio Marcegaglia* (Italy), JS *Yahagi* (Japan), TCG *Buyukada* (Turkiye), RSS *Steadfast* (Singapore) and USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee* (US).

Ships from Pakistan, Indonesia, India, Russia, Thailand and Bangladesh will also participate.