

SPECTACULAR AERIAL DISPLAY

# SKY ON FIRE AS LIMA '25 ROARS BACK

**PM officiates at 17th edition of exhibition; launches nation's first high-mobility light tactical vehicle**

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**T**HE deafening roar of fighter jets and the thrum of helicopters once again reverberated across the island as the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 (Lima '25) officially opened its doors yesterday.

The high-octane opening act was set in motion by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who symbolically activated a replica fighter jet throttle on the tarmac of the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC), signalling the start of the aerial spectacle.

Moments later, two Royal Malaysian Air Force F/A-18D Hornet fighter jets thundered overhead, streaking past the main stage in a dramatic flypast while releasing flares, electrifying the crowd and setting the tone for what was to come.

Adding to the adrenaline-fu-

elled atmosphere, pyrotechnics were launched near the Langkawi International Airport runway, their shockwaves rippling through the air as anticipation mounted.

The aerial display continued with the RMAF's Sukhoi Su-30MKM Flanker jets executing precise, high-speed manoeuvres.

This was followed by an impressive demonstration of airlift capability, as two of the RMAF's transport aircraft — the Airbus A400M Atlas and the Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules — soared gracefully over the exhibition grounds, drawing thousands of eyes skyward.

An elegant formation flight by the RMAF Flying Institute's Pilatus PC-7 aircraft followed, showcasing flight discipline and synchronisation.

Next came a coordinated helicopter performance, featuring the agile EC120B Colibri and the formidable EC725AP. The latter stole the show with a synchronised "aerial ballet", circling in tight formation as pyrotechnics erupted once again from the runway below.

The opening ceremony culminated in a grand aerial procession, with all participating aircraft flying in formation directly above the prime minister.

Now in its 17th edition since its inception in 1991, the Lima exhibition will run for five days from today and is expected to at-



The Royal Malaysian Air Force's F/A-18D Hornet performing a thrilling aerial display, marking the official opening of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre in Langkawi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

tract thousands of local and international visitors.

After the ceremony, Anwar launched the Ribat, the country's first high-mobility light tactical vehicle (HMLTV), fully designed and manufactured by a Malaysian defence firm.

The vehicle positions its manufacturer, Mildef International Technologies Sdn Bhd, as a national leader in land defence.

Mildef is the first Malaysian company to successfully introduce a homegrown tactical armoured vehicle for regional and international markets.

Ribat's name was personally chosen by Anwar, carrying a symbolic meaning rooted in the spirit of protecting the homeland with faith, patriotism and technological advancement.

Mildef managing director Datuk Seri Mohd Nizam Kasa said the launch not only highlights the strength of local capabilities but also reflects the government's efforts in building a resilient and independent defence ecosystem.

"Ribat is a product of Malaysian

innovation that shows we are not just users of defence technology, but also creators of strategic systems trusted by both the government and the international community," he said.

The vehicle was developed by Malaysian engineers using industrial-grade facilities in Seremban and Sepang.

Nizam said Ribat was not only suited for domestic use but also meets the operational requirements of overseas missions, making it a competitive and cost-effective option for the government.

He said more than 60 per cent of the vehicle's components had been localised, with the engine being the only major part sourced from abroad.

"In terms of design and commercial development, everything was done locally. The vehicle was fully designed, developed and patented in Malaysia.

"Ribat has also undergone extensive testing and validation processes in collaboration with the Science and Technology Research Institute for Defence

(Stride) and the Malaysian Army to ensure its performance and reliability.

"It features a modular ballistic protection system and is designed for missions including patrol, convoy and special operations," he said.

At the event, Mildef signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indonesia's leading defence firm, PT Pindad, opening doors for export opportunities, technology transfers and system integration between the nations.

Mildef also signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the Defence Ministry's Stride.

Later, Anwar witnessed the maritime segment gracing ceremony in Tanjung Malai.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (third from left) at the launch of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 yesterday. With him are members of the cabinet and the menteri besar of Perlis and Kedah.