

First locally-made tactical vehicle launched

LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched "Ribat", the first High Mobility Light Tactical Vehicle (HMLTV) designed and fully built by local company Mildef International Technologies Sdn Bhd (Mildef).

The launch yesterday was held in conjunction with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

The name Ribat, given by Anwar, carries a symbolic value and refers to the spirit of guarding and defending the country based on

faith, patriotism and technology.

Ribat alludes to the practice of guarding and controlling the border to defend the safety of the people. It symbolises preparedness, courage and the spirit of sacrifice for the country.

At the event, Anwar witnessed the signing of an MoU between Mildef and major Indonesian defence company PT Pindad.

The collaboration is set to open up opportunities for exports, technology transfer and system integration between the two regional nations.

Anwar also witnessed the inking of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Mildef and the Defence Science and Technology Research Institute (STRIDE), a prominent research agency under the Defence Ministry.

The MoA is aimed at focusing efforts on the development of two more tactical vehicle platforms that will be fully designed domestically.

At the agreement signing, Mildef was represented by its managing director Datuk Seri Mohd Nizam Kasa, PT Pindad by Sigit Puji Santosa and STRIDE by Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and Malaysian Armed Forces chief Jen Datuk Mohd Nizam Jaffar witnessed the signing of the agreement.

Mildef said in a statement that the launch solidified its position as the country's leading land defence company.

It said Ribat was developed by local engineers with the support of industrial-grade engineering facilities in Seremban and Sepang, and is equipped with a modular ballistic protection system designed for missions such as patrols, convoys and special operations.

Mohd Nizam said Ribat not only illustrates the capability of local industries but also the success of government policy in empowering a self-reliant and high-impact defence ecosystem.

"Ribat is the result of local innovation, which proves that Malaysia is not only capable of being a user of defence systems but also a creator of strategic technology trusted by both the government and the global community."

Since its establishment in 2005, Mildef has grown from a group of young engineers to become a key player in the national defence industry, with its success in building various assets such as the high mobility armoured vehicle Tarantula, the Rentaka 4x4 and now the HMLTV Ribat. - Bernama



Anwar, accompanied by deputy prime ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, arriving for the launch in Langkawi yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**