

Krisakti has 1Malaysia in heart
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LANGKAWI: The 1Malaysia Aerial Display Team or Krisakti will tour the country and Asia to promote aviation among the young.

Aerotree Defence and Services Sdn Bhd group managing director Datuk Halim Othman said the government was supportive of the national aerobatic team's initiatives to foster better ties between Malaysia and other nations.

"Apart from being a crowd-puller at airshows and national events like Merdeka Day, Malaysia Day, Armed Forces Day and the King's birthday, we also want to promote the 1Malaysia concept for national integration and unity," said Halim after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the team at the Langkawi International Airport in Padang Matsirat yesterday.

Halim said the Defence Ministry agreed to the Krisakti crew operating as a professional aerobatic team.

"Apart from support from the government and my company, we are also looking at corporate sponsors to promote their products and services," said Halim, who is also the executive team leader.

Aerotree has purchased six German-made, single-engine propellor Extra 300L aeroplanes. The crew comprised six pilots and 10 maintenance personnel, all from the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Ghazali said the pilots had combat and jet-fighter experience, flying the Pilatus PC-7, Aermacchi MB339, Hawks, MiG-29N and F/A-18D Hornets

"We underwent intensive aerobatic display training at the Sywell Aerodrome in Northhamptonshire, Britain, by The Blades, a world-class aerobatic team whose members are former Royal Air Force Red Arrows pilots."

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