

NEWS CLIPPING – PRESS

PR VALUE: RM 1,717.32

Client DSA Exhibition and Conference

Publication Borneo Post, KK

Date Sat, 7 March 2020

Section Business

Page No(s). A3

Circulation 18,290

Frequency Daily

Headline Asia's largest defence and security exhibition postponed due to Covid-19

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KUALA LUMPUR: Defence Services Asia (DSA) 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020, Asia's largest defence and security exhibition, have been postponed to August due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

DSA Exhibition & Conference Sdn Bhd said the events, which were initially to take place from April 20 to 23, have been rescheduled to Aug 24 to 27.

"The postponement was decided following careful consideration and consultations with the Defence Ministry (Mindef),

Home Affairs Ministry and stakeholders following the current uncertainties in the wake of the Covid-19 concern which has resulted in global travel disruptions and other circumstances," the events' organiser said in a statement.

DSA Exhibition & Conference chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin said the decision to reschedule was unanimous, despite the events being less than two months away.

The exhibition venue remains the Malaysia

International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC).

DSA 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020 are hosted, supported and co-organised by Mindef and the Home Affairs Ministry.

Asmat said it was only prudent to look at a revised date as the events were expected to attract 1,500 participating companies from over 60 countries, some 350 VIP delegations from 30 countries and 50,000 visitors from all corners of the world.

"We wanted to ensure a conducive and productive

business environment for our stakeholders, exhibitors and visitors when the events get underway.

"We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to all those who have been affected and hope that the rescheduled dates will ensure DSA 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020 continue to serve as an integral platform to encourage foreign technology exchange and partnerships, as well as enhance cooperation to strengthen national defence and security," he said. With the theme

"Advancing into a New Era of Defence", the two mega events will feature focused segments involving not just a conventional defence platform but also cyber defence, unmanned systems and battlefield healthcare.

Invaluable opportunities abound for strategic alliances, business collaboration and successful networking between major defence and security players and government agencies at DSA 2020 and NATSEC Asia 2020. — Bernama