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MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



GENERAL DATO' SRI ACKBAL BIN HAJI ABDUL SAMAD RMAF
CHIEF OF AIR FORCE MALAYSIA

This year marks the 62nd anniversary of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), and we have been unwavering in our duty to preserve the safety and sovereignty of Malaysia's airspace, with constant vigilance to the best of our abilities.

While there are no immediate and imminent threats in Malaysian airspace, ongoing vigilance is key to the nation's stability. Hence, RMAF is embarking on a transformational plan: the Capability Development Plan 2055 (Capacity Development 55). The long-term term plan, from 2021 to 2055 will hone in on new procurement, enhancements and upgrading of RMAF assets.

At present, many of our assets are beyond their peak combat-effectiveness. The renewal of these assets is one of our top priorities in modernising and upgrading the air force. This will also help us to reduce maintenance costs in the long run, as older aircrafts require more intense maintenance and upkeep to remain airworthy. This is vital to ensure we can defend Malaysia's airspace effectively and efficiently. RMAF has carefully weighed our options for aircraft selection, considering that fighter aircrafts are the most strategic weapon of any air force today in terms of combat effectiveness and critical technologies.

Aside from the physical assets, CAP55's capacity advancement initiative also involves the development of human capital, doctrine and alignment of the organisation.

We continue to work with the Ministry of Defence to ensure that adequate focus is given to the acquisition of our assets, while bearing in mind the current government's austerity drive.

The upcoming Defence and Services Asia (DSA) Exhibition & Conference is an ideal opportunity for us to 'shop' for the latest and most effective systems, as well as gain ideas on how to make the most of our existing assets and technologies. Since its inception, DSA has given us the opportunity to play an important role in regional

defence, and forge long-lasting partnerships with fellow air force personnel from around the region in the interest of maintaining the peace and prosperity of our regional skies.

Together with the second National Security Asia or NATSEC Asia 2020, DSA 2020 will attract the various military agencies and defence mechanisms from across the region, encouraging greater dialogue and sharing of ideas between the respective entities.

On behalf of RMAF, congratulations to the organisers and all the best for DSA 2020!

Thank you.