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MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



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JOINT FORCE COMMANDER, MALAYSIA

As part of our commitment and shared responsibility towards the early and peaceful resolution of conflict, the new Malaysian Government places a strong emphasis on continuously enhancing the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) readiness to deter and counter any form of threats.

In efforts to improve MAF capabilities, joint and combined exercises regularly held with all the three services (army, navy and air force) and friendly countries that will provide an opportunity to enhance the skills of our armed forces in war fighting through the Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ). This is part of our efforts to continue providing training and capacity building on multi-dimensional warfare. Especially, the rising threat of terrorism faced by the world gives precedent to the normal conventional threat that we normally trained for.

Though we sometimes face challenges in defence allocations, we need to acknowledge that the belt-tightening is a necessary and timely measure to rebuild our country economically. I believe that this calls for a slight shift in priorities and out of the box thinking as we move away from focusing solely on acquiring the latest and most state of the art machinery and equipment to multi-purposed or multi-function equipment that can give us more benefit and outcomes with single equipment. The industrial player should be ready for the revolution of 4.0 which is already begun.

Technologies, machinery and weaponry, while important, are merely the tools we use in combat – but it is the spirit and attitude of our people that are of utmost importance. Perhaps now is the time we can focus on enhancing the morale and welfare of our personnel, without sacrificing our military preparedness. I have full faith that in due time,

as the country's economy improves, the defence expenditure too will increase proportionately.

The coming DSA 2020 will provide a timely platform for us to discuss and deliberate on new and innovative ways in which we can work together with our regional counterparts in order to elevate and enhance our capabilities and strengths. It is important for us as a region to build greater trust and work together in settling disputes that affect our land, waters and skies.

On that note, congratulations to the organisers of DSA 2020. We are proud to once again play host to this world class show and look forward to Malaysia leading the way for international peacekeeping efforts in the region.

Thank you.