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Beyond ensuring the safety and security of the country and its citizens, the defence industry also has an important role in contributing towards technological advancements and stimulating the country's economy.

The defence sector has always served as a vehicle in gaining access to high-end technologies in areas like aerospace, maritime, cyberspace, surveillance, medicine, transport, and many others. In fact, many important technologies used today are a result of billions of dollars in research that were initially poured into the defence sector. The acquisition of such technologies and knowledge is not only paramount in elevating the effectiveness of our defence industry but also in creating positive ripple effects in other sectors of our economy.

In order to ensure that our country is able to cope with current and future challenges, the Ministry is in the process of developing a Defence White Paper to outline our defence principles and strategies, as well as latest development plans for our armed forces capabilities.

We continue to face new and evolving threats such as cybercrime and biochemical threats, and in order to combat these effectively, we must not only have the knowledge and capabilities but also the cooperation of all stakeholders involved, including the public. I believe that issues pertaining to defence and security should be discussed openly to ensure that all levels of society is aware and understand the importance and takes joint responsibility, in line with the concept of Total Defence (HANRUH) under the country's defence policy. This is the purpose of the White Paper.

One of the key benefits of an established world-class platform like Defence Services Asia (DSA), is that it is ideal in facilitating such exchanges between governments, defence agencies, policymakers, and the industry, for the greater good of national and regional defence.

Time and again, DSA has proven its mettle in elevating the defence sector not just in Malaysia, but also in ASEAN. It is also a prime example of how the defence industry can contribute towards economic spin-offs for the country, with DSA 2018 generating a total of RM17.8 billion as a result of partnerships and investment opportunities between participating companies and governments, both local and foreign. I am sure the upcoming DSA 2020 will be no different.

I'm immensely proud and pleased to be part of DSA 2020, and look forward to meeting delegations and industry members from around the region.

Thank you.