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MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MALAYSIA**

There is no doubt that our military and armed forces personnel are one of the best in the region. These heroic men and women are always prepared to defend the country from any unforeseen threats or invasions. However, in order for them to carry out their tasks effectively, there is a need to strengthen our military assets and equipment so that they are on par with global technological advancements and current needs.

We will be optimizing the budget, to ensure that Malaysia Armed Forces are at its highest level of preparedness to preserve our country's security. This includes equipping them with the latest and most effective platforms, technologies and artillery. We are also looking into improving the operation and deployment of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF).

We intend to strengthen and upgrade the capabilities of our military forces to ensure that peace and security of the country and its citizens are improved. It is also our interest to work together with the respective military forces of our neighbours to ensure mutual peace, security and prosperity for all nations in ASEAN.

Platforms like the biennial Defence Services Asia (DSA) 2020 support these objectives. Since its inception, DSA has played a crucial role in bringing together various industry leaders, governments, military and defence agencies from across the region with the purpose of forging mutual trust and collaboration between all parties. DSA continues to serve as an integral platform to encourage foreign technology exchange and partnerships, in line with our efforts to upgrade our defence capabilities.

More than just showcasing the latest defence technologies and services, DSA 2020 will serve a higher regional and global defence agenda by addressing the world's most pertinent security concerns including counter-terrorism, cyber security, humanitarian and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and battlefield healthcare, among others.

For these reasons and more, I am proud and pleased to lend our Ministry's wholehearted support and endorsement of DSA 2020. Congratulations to the organisers for putting-together this timely and credible platform once again, and I look forward to being part of this world-class event.

Thank you.