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LAKSAMANA TAN SRI (DR) ZULHELMY BIN ITHNAIN
PANGKALAN TUDUNG LALUT

ADMIRAL TAN SRI (DR) ZULHELMY BIN ITHNAIN **CHIEF OF THE ROYAL MALAYSIAN NAVY**

The Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) embraces its profound responsibility as the vanguard of Malaysia's maritime sovereignty. Positioned at the strategic crossroads of the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea, our nation's economic prosperity and national security are inseparably tied to the stability of our maritime domain. Our commitment to a modern, agile and credible naval force has never been more vital in an era of shifting geopolitical dynamics and increasingly complex non-traditional threats.

This forward-looking vision drives the RMN's #15to5 Transformation Programme. More than a blueprint for fleet recapitalisation, it is a strategic imperative to build a future-ready navy that is technologically advanced, seamlessly integrated and fully capable of addressing the multidimensional challenges of our time. Our efforts extend beyond platform acquisition; they focus on cultivating a robust, networked force capable of operating effectively across both littoral and open-ocean environments.

In this context, DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 are premier platforms for the RMN to engage with global and local industry partners. Here, we seek cutting-edge products and innovative solutions to enable us to realise our strategic objectives. Our key areas of interest include integrated naval platforms, particularly the procurement of next-generation vessels such as the Littoral Mission Ships (LMS) Batch 3 and Multi-Role Support Ships (MRSS), which are designed to enhance combat effectiveness, interoperability and logistical support. We are also prioritising anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities by acquiring new ASW helicopters and associated systems to strengthen subsurface surveillance and protection of strategic maritime assets. Additionally, we seek force multipliers such as Unmanned Systems to build a resilient, networked naval force capable of distributed operations across diverse maritime environments.

This year's theme, "Enhancing Capabilities and Resilience Through Technology," resonates deeply with our mission. It reflects our belief that a credible navy is defined not merely by its size, but by its technological sophistication and the strength of its partnerships.

On behalf of the RMN, I warmly invite the defence industry to participate in DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. This is an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate how your products and expertise can contribute directly to Malaysia's defence ecosystem and help us realise the vision of a credible, versatile naval force by 2030. Together, we can navigate today's challenges and lay the foundation for a more secure and prosperous future.



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