



**20 - 23 APRIL 2026**  
**MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR**

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**RAJA DATO' NUSHIRWAN BIN ZAINAL ABIDIN**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC)**

Since its early beginnings in the 1980s, DSA and NATSEC Asia have come a long way to become an essential convergence point for the shared pursuit of national security. Having observed their evolution throughout my years in public service, I can personally bear testament to the critical role these platforms play in shaping Malaysia's long-term security landscape.

If there is one lesson that I have learnt after spending more than three decades in the fields of foreign affairs and national security, it is that modern protection is shaped not just by what a nation can defend, but by how well it can anticipate challenges and collaborate to overcome them. This is what breeds resilience.

In today's interconnected environment, resilience is built through strong partnerships and shared commitments. This understanding aligns closely with the spirit of DSA and NATSEC Asia, where nations and institutions come together to forge common ground in a complex world.

The National Security Council, or MKN, occupies a distinctive place within Malaysia's security architecture. While operational agencies focus on immediate response, tactical readiness, and enforcement, we at MKN are entrusted with interpreting the broader strategic picture. Our mandate is to ensure that policies, capabilities, and institutions across government are aligned, synchronised, and prepared for uncertainty. We serve as the connective tissue of Malaysia's security ecosystem, coordinating inter-agency efforts and shaping the structure that ensures national readiness.

Meanwhile, as the security landscape evolves, more so now than in any other point in history, our challenges can be seemingly overwhelming. Cyber incursions can unfold in minutes. Disinformation can erode trust within hours. Climate-related emergencies can trigger cascading risks nationwide, as we have seen even here in Malaysia. These harsh realities remind us that the assumptions of the past are no longer sufficient. Modern security requires a holistic, integrated, and anticipatory approach.



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This is why the theme for DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 is indispensable. Technology now forms the backbone of national capability. It empowers advanced early-warning systems, strengthens crisis coordination platforms, enhances inter-agency communication, and provides the analytical depth required to make informed decisions under pressure. In an era where threats evolve faster than rules can be written, technological readiness anchors national stability.

Yet, technology achieves its purpose only when embedded within a coherent ecosystem of cooperation. In this regard, DSA and NATSEC Asia provide a space where policymakers, security professionals, innovators, and international partners can engage meaningfully.

I look forward to the many showcases at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026. These events have grown to become more than mere exhibitions. They are windows into how governance and preparedness will evolve in the years to come. The insights gained here will help strengthen Malaysia's national framework, deepen inter-agency synergy, and reinforce our capacity to withstand the complexities of tomorrow's challenges.

As we approach DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, the National Security Council reaffirms its full support for this vital initiative. We welcome the opportunity to engage with partners from across the region and beyond, and to contribute to the collective effort of building a safer and more resilient future for Malaysia.

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