

10 | NEWS / Nation

STILL HAVE FULL SUPPORT

RUSSIA, UKRAINE NO-SHOW AT DSA

20 nations will display products, services at group pavilions at Defence Services Asia

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IT will be a no-show for Russia, Belarus and Ukraine at the Defence Services Asia (DSA) 2022.

The reasons were very obvious, said the event organiser, referring to the Russian conflict with Ukraine.

Russia and its ally Belarus are facing strict economic sanctions by the United States and European Union countries, while Ukraine is under "attack".

DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd executive director Nadzeem Abdul Rahman told the *New Straits Times* that the three countries had indicated their non-participation for the 17th

DSA 2022, and the concurrent 2nd National Security Asia 2022 (Natsec Asia 2022).

Both events, fully backed by the government, were scheduled for March 28 to 31 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Dutamas, Kuala Lumpur, concluding just as Malaysia enters the Covid-19 endemic phase on April 1.

Both biennial events were scrapped for 2020 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"All three countries had initially shown an interest in taking part, but the recent turn of events has put paid to their participation."

"Also giving both the events a miss are South Africa and Australia."

"In 2008, Iran, which had one of the largest pavilions, caused a ripple at DSA when it was suddenly ejected from the exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre, owing to trade sanctions initiated by the United States.

"Nevertheless, we have the full and strong support from 20 other nations showcasing their products and services at country group pavilions," he said.

The confirmed countries for group pavilions were hosts Malaysia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Turkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.

These, he said, were part of the 1,170 companies from 54 countries, occupying 38,000 square metres of exhibition space.

"They will display the world's sophisticated hardware and electronic warfare in land, air, sea and cyber domains."

"These will include border protection, citizen identification, artificial intelligence, battlefield healthcare products and technology, training and simulation systems,



Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (centre) officiating at the launch of Defence Services Asia (DSA) 2022 in Kuala Lumpur recently. With him are Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin and DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin (left). FILE PIC



Nadzeem Abdul Rahman

police and homeland security peripherals and critical assets protection systems," he said.

Nadzeem said Turkiye would be the largest overseas participant, with with an additional 30 per cent from its defence and security industries.

"Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we have managed to attract trade visitors and participants from a high-network bracket with big spending power."

"These nations and companies will be able to stimulate Malaysia's economy by as much as RM500 million in spin-offs for airlines, hotels, suppliers, logistics agents, transport players, food and beverage industry and tourism."

He said both events had produced RM800 million in spin-offs for the 2018 editions in 2018 before Covid-19 struck.

Calling it the biggest show for the country this year, Nadzeem hoped DSA 2022 and Natsec Asia 2022 would spur local industries

after suffering an economic beating in the last two years.

"Other countries have gone on an upbeat mode by opening up their borders and hosting mega international events."

"Likewise, we need to move forward to stimulate our economy too," he said.

Nadzeem said he expected 4,800 international visitors for both events, comprising experts, exhibitors, delegates, government officials, captains of industries and foreign journalists.

"They will be joined by around 20,000 local visitors for the ecology of business events, conferences, forums, contract signings, industry talks, business matchings and demonstrations."

"As per the government directive, we will continue to strictly observe and comply with the Covid-19 standard operating procedures under the safe exhibition bubble, for the duration of the events."