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## STRAITS TIMES

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Covid-19 'knocks out' DSA, Natsec Asia



KUALA LUMPUR: The power of the deadly Covid-19 has 'knocked out' one of the continent's top defence and security exhibitions.

The Defence Services Asia (DSA) 2020 and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2020, Asia's largest defence and security exhibition have been postponed to Aug 24-27.

The events were initially slated for April 20-23 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC).

The events' organiser, DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd's chairman Tan Sri Asmat Kamaludin said the postponement was decided following careful consideration and consultation with the ministeries of defence and home affairs, as well as the stakeholders.

"This follows the current uncertainties in the wake of the Covid-19's concern which has resulted in global travel disruptions and other circumstances.

"The decision is unanimous and there is no question about rescheduling, despite the event being less than two months away," he said.

The events were expected to attract 1,500 participating companies from over 60 countries, some 350 VIP delegations from 30 countries and 50,000 visitors from all corners of the world.

"Thus, it is only prudent to look at a revised date.

"We wanted to ensure a conducive and productive business environment for our stakeholders, exhibitors and visitors when the events get underway.

"We extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to all those who have been affected and hope that the rescheduled dates will ensure DSA 2020 and Natsec Asia 2020 continue to serve as an integral platform to encourage foreign technology exchange and partnerships, as well as enhance cooperation to strengthen national defence and security," said Asmat.

With the theme 'Advancing into a New Era of Defence', the two mega events will feature focused segments involving not just a conventional defence platform but also cyber defence, unmanned systems and battlefield healthcare.

Invaluable opportunities abound for strategic alliances, business collaboration and successful networking between major players in the defence and securities and government agencies at DSA 2020 and Natsec Asia 2020.

DSA 2020 and Natsec Asia 2020 are hosted, supported and co-organised by the ministries of defence and home affairs.