

**THE LAUNCH OF OFFICE TURKISH AEROSPACE MALAYSIA
(TUSAŞ MALAYSIA SDN BHD) CYBERJAYA**

9 MAY 2024

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahitaala wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.

1. I am pleased to be here today to witness yet another proud milestone for Malaysia's aerospace industry, as we gather to commemorate the inauguration of the new operational office for Turkish Aerospace Malaysia, known as TUSAS Malaysia Sdn Bhd.
2. I am delighted to know that this is the first aerospace OEM design centre in Malaysia.
3. Even though this venture has just commenced its operations in 2022, I am glad to know that the company has since witnessed unprecedented growth.
4. With more than 120 engineers, TUSAS Malaysia has been a catalyst for the growth and development of more than 50 domestic supply chain entities, spanning vital sectors such as electrical and electronics, machinery equipment and parts, metal manufacturing, and iron and steel products.
5. By engaging and fostering new Tier 1 and Tier 3 aerospace suppliers, TUSAS Malaysia has not only bolstered our national economy, but has also enhanced our strategic capabilities in aerospace manufacturing and technology.
6. This is in line with the aspiration of our National Industry Masterplan (NIMO) 20230.
7. Establishment of TUSAS in Malaysia is even more significant with the procurement engagement between Malaysia and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) in procuring ANKA, an advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

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8. This collaboration marks a pivotal moment not only for the defence sectors of both nations but also for the broader aerospace industry in Malaysia.
9. This collaborative effort exhibits the potential to further fortify the strategic alliance between Malaysia and Turkiye within the domain of defence, paving the way for future joint projects and initiatives including opportunities for technology transfer and knowledge exchange.
10. I believe that this engagement holds immense potential for the long-term development of Malaysia's aerospace industry, extending far beyond its immediate military implications.
11. This presents a valuable opportunity for Malaysian aerospace companies to glean from TAI's expertise, thereby bolstering their own capabilities in design, manufacturing and maintenance of advanced aerospace systems and paving the way for a prosperous future.
12. It will help enhance Malaysia's defence capabilities and catalyses the development of our aerospace industry, paving the way for technological advancement, industrial growth and global competitiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. While acknowledging this impressive achievement and collaboration, I wish to take this opportunity to share our vision and aspiration at the Ministry of Defence Malaysia.
14. We aspire to further develop our local defence industry. And by that, I refer to at least 3 aspects.
15. **Firstly**, continuous and consistent investment in research and development (R&D) that will lead to innovations and advancement in new technologies.
16. We want to increase local contents in our defence procurement and technologies. And all this must begin with investment in R&D.

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17. **Secondly**, we wish to devise a well-structured and wide-ranging local talents enrichment programme that will help develop local talents and human capital pool.
18. We must not be only users but innovators.
19. This is possible if we have a strong and dedicated talent enrichment and cross fertilisation program.
20. At the moment, I am proud to share that the ministry has introduced a program known as PROTÉGÉ, where we welcome and encourage industry players to provide placement for internship, particularly to graduates and talents from our defence ecosystem and servicemen families.
21. **And thirdly**, the creation of bigger opportunities for our active military servicemen and veterans to meaningfully participate in defence industry.
22. This aspiration will indeed require, among others, a strong support from industry players such as TUSAS.
23. As we inaugurate this new operational office, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration and excellence.
24. Let us seize this opportunity to further propel Malaysia, in partnership with Türkiye, to the forefront of aerospace technology and manufacturing and to forge partnerships that will shape the future of our nation's aerospace industry.
25. Again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to TUSAS Malaysia on this momentous occasion. May this new chapter be marked by continued success, innovation, and prosperity for our nations and its people.
26. With Bismillahirohmanirohim, I officially declare the office of Turkish Aerospace Malaysia (TUSAŞ Malaysia Sdn Bhd) open.
27. Thank you.