



20 - 23 APRIL 2026
MITEC, KUALA LUMPUR



YAB DATO' SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Next year, Malaysia will once again host the Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security Asia (NATSEC Asia) exhibitions, and I am honoured to be asked to express some thoughts on them and to lend my support to every person involved.

These events are recognised as being among the world's premier platforms for defence and security innovation, and they are assuredly a tribute to the vision, determination and collaboration of all those who contribute to our shared mission of ensuring peace and stability.

DSA and NATSEC Asia testify to Malaysia's role as a regional leader, a trusted global partner, and a committed advocate for progress and innovation. They reflect our enduring belief that security is one of the fundamental cornerstones of prosperity and that peace is the foundation upon which all nations thrive.

As a nation at the heart of Southeast Asia, Malaysia has long understood the importance of regional stability. Our security is interconnected with that of our neighbours, and our prosperity is tied to the peace of the region. DSA and NATSEC Asia embody this understanding. They are a platform where nations can come together to address the challenges that transcend borders, including modern and traditional threats such as cybersecurity, terrorism, piracy and humanitarian crises.

Through these events, Malaysia reaffirms its leadership in ASEAN and the greater region, fostering partnerships that strengthen our shared resilience. It is here that we explore solutions to the challenges of today and prepare for the uncertainties of tomorrow. It is here that we show the world that we, as a sovereign nation, are not only a beneficiary of security but a contributor to it.

Malaysia has long shown that its commitment to security extends far beyond our region. Over the decades, our Armed Forces have proudly served in peacekeeping missions around the world, standing shoulder to shoulder with our global allies in some of the world's most challenging environments. This legacy of service affirms our values of unity and of compassion and bespeaks of our untiring dedication to peace.



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DSA and NATSEC Asia provide a vital space to strengthen these global partnerships. They bring together leaders, policymakers and innovators to share knowledge, align strategies and build the relationships that are so essential to our collective security.

DSA and NATSEC Asia are in fact events that catalyse growth and innovation across our nation's economy. They have the power to transform industries beyond the defence and security sectors; they can drive advancements in areas such as healthcare, computing, logistics, and communications. They create opportunities for Malaysian businesses, foster international collaborations, and position our nation as a hub for technological excellence.

The defence and security industries have long been drivers of innovation. Many of the technologies we rely on today, from the internet to advanced imaging systems, had their origins in military research and development.

DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026 will have opportunities to explore how emerging technologies such as AI, robotics, and quantum computing can address challenges that extend beyond defence. This underscores the importance of investing in these sectors, not just to strengthen our national defence, but to drive progress across society.

The theme of this year's event, "Enhancing Capabilities and Resilience Through Technology," is a reminder of this dynamic. By embracing technology and innovation, Malaysia can create a ripple effect of progress, empowering our economy, our infrastructure, and our communities.

As we prepare for these events, let us reflect on the truth that progress is not inevitable, but intentional. The advancements we see in defence, security and beyond are the result of human ingenuity, collaboration and determination.

The very history of human progress has taught us that the tools we create to enhance peace and security often transform the way we live. They have the potential to shape our homes, our workplaces and our societies. Our efforts therefore must be driven by deep purpose and meaning, all for the greater good.

To all who will gather at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2026, let me say this: the future is not something we wait for, but rather what we shape. Think boldly and act wisely. Let us use this platform not just to showcase the best of what we have built, but to inspire the best of what we can imagine. Let us challenge ourselves to see defence not as an end, but as a means to peace, stability, and the progress of all humanity. Thank you.

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