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## IRAN-MADE DRONE 'GAZA' STEALS THE SPOTLIGHT AT DSA NATSEC ASIA 2024



KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 (Bernama) -- The replica of an Iran-made drone, Shahed-149, continues to steal the spotlight at the Defence Services Exhibition Asia (DSA) 2024 and National Security Exhibition (NATSEC) Asia 2024, here.

Nicknamed 'GAZA' to honour the strength and resistance of the people of Gaza against the injustices committed by the Zionist usurpation regime, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), first unveiled in 2021, highlights Iran's technological advancements and weapons production capabilities.

According to the official met by Bernama at the Iranian Defence Ministry's booth here, the UAV, which was evolved from the Shahed 129 drone, is categorised as a high-altitude, long-endurance vehicle, similar in size and functionality to the american MQ-9 Reaper.

With an internal atrium and a rotating arm release mechanism, Shahed-149's weaponry capabilities include carrying up to 500 kg of electronic devices and 13 bombs.

The drone, which is 10 metres in length, four metres in height, and 21 metres in wingspan, also has an endurance power of over 24 hours, a top speed of 350 kilometres per hour and can fly up to 35,000 feet.

It was redesigned by Shahed Aviation Industries and produced by Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Corporation (HESA).

Apart from GAZA, Iran had also made a strong impression among Middle Eastern defence exhibitors with a broad range of weapons, including the Shahed-129 drone which had been used against rebels and ISIS.

Iran has a history of developing and using drones for both military and surveillance where in recent years, the country has made great strides in the technology, manufacturing a range of models with varying capabilities.

The DSA and NATSEC Asia 2024, held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) here from yesterday until Thursday, showcases the most advanced electronic warfare technology and assets in the land, air and sea defence sectors.

The biennial event, now in its 18th edition, carries the theme 'Building Resilient Nations For The Next Generation' and has attracted the participation of 1,324 companies from 60 countries, with 34 countries having their own pavilions, including Turkey, China, UAE, Italy, and the United States.