

# NST

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### DSA 2014: A Catalyst for Economic Development

**M**ALAYSIANS waited with bated breath for the announcement of the 2014 Budget by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Parliament recently.

The med "Strengthening Economic Resilience", the Budget was timely for the Defence Ministry, which was allocated a total of RM16.1 billion — RM13.355 billion for operating expenditure and RM2.745 billion for development expenditure — some RM849 million more than in the 2013 Budget.

as well as dual-use technology, employment, export promotion, absorption of high-technology and spin-offs that boost non-defence sectors of the economy.

Malaysia has undertaken defence industrialisation for both economic and military reasons. From a military standpoint, the development of the defence industry is mainly aimed at self-reliance in spare and logistics support, modification, upgrades, retrofits, maintenance, repairs and overhauls without foreign assistance.



In order to implement anti-crime measures and enhance military preparedness, the government allocated RM8.8 billion to the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) and RM13.2 billion to the armed forces.

The substantial increase in operating budgets is expected to go a long way in strengthening the country's safety and security — both within and along its borders — as well as uplifting the morale of military and police personnel.

While defence is typically seen from a safety-and-security standpoint, its implications on economic development and advancement are underestimated.

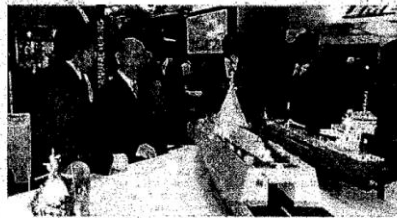
In fact, many developing countries have pursued defence industrialisation as a catalyst for capacity-building, creating high-value-added products

In recent years, Malaysia has viewed the defence sector as a vehicle to acquire high-end defence and aerospace-related technology that could alleviate the country's low technological level. This could then indirectly create spin-offs, such as high value-added employment, indigenous technological and industrial development, skills development, and penetration of the global supply chain.

Malaysia has been increasing its defence expenditure in parallel with its gross domestic product growth rate in recent years. Through the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has been promoting increased high-value-added investments, partially through foreign technology partnerships.

Exhibitions, such as Defence Services Asia (DSA) which has run for

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almost three decades, play a critical role in this regard. What started off in 1988 with only 394 participating companies has almost tripled in size since.

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Expecting to attract a total of 1,000 companies from 50 countries around the world including Malaysia, the event is also targeting to receive more than 25,000 trade visitors and 300 foreign delegations and VIPs. The event will coincide with Visit Malaysia Year 2014, and contribute generously to tourism receipts for the country.

DSA 2014, the 14th instalment of DSA, will highlight the emergence of non-traditional security issues, namely in the areas of Humanitarian Assistance Relief (HADR) and CBRNe (Chemical, Biological, Radiology, Nuclear and explosives). Both HADR and CBRNe form crucial capacities within the competencies of today's armed forces worldwide.

In line with the growing popularity of cyberspace, which presents a whole new frontier for cybercrimes, there is a growing need for the defence and

security sector to employ the most innovative crime-fighting technologies to maintain national security.

Thus, DSA 2014 will focus strongly on cyber security, playing an invaluable role in the exchange of ideas and promotion of new technology, in addition to serving as a platform to showcase some of the world's most sophisticated crime prevention technologies and techniques.

Other highlights of DSA 2014 are the Chief of Army Roundtable Talks (CART), which will see all visiting Army Chiefs from the region and beyond converging to exchange ideas as well as to discuss pertinent issues; Defence and Procurement Centre; Business-to-Business (B2B) Meetings; ASEAN Defence Industry Collaboration (ADIC) Workshop; and an Army Static Display and Demonstration Showcase by the Malaysia Army.

The Putrajaya Forum 2014 will be held in conjunction with DSA, focusing on the theme "Strengthening Security and Regional Stability".

DSA 2014 will be held from April 14 to 17, 2014, at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

For further information, visit [www.dsaexhibition.com](http://www.dsaexhibition.com)

