



SENIOR MINISTER OF DEFENCE
MALAYSIA

PRESS STATEMENT

11th FPDA Defence Ministers' Meeting and 50th FPDA Anniversary Celebration

1. Today, Malaysia has successfully hosted the 11th FPDA Defence Ministers' Meeting (FDMM) with the Minister of Defence Singapore, Dr Ng Eng Hen; Minister for Defence Australia, Peter Dutton; Minister of Defence New Zealand, Peeni Henare, and Minister for Armed Forces United Kingdom, James Heapey, attending virtually; and the High Commissioners and Defence Attachés from the respective partner nations attending physically.

2. The convening of today's 11th FDMM is an affirmation of continued commitment by all five nations to the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA). During the meeting, all leaders expressed satisfaction with the outcomes which included an exchange of views on emerging security challenges in the context of regional defence cooperation, discussion on FPDA exercises and activities, a 10-year plan for exercises from 2022 to 2031, and the adoption of the 50th FPDA Anniversary Stock-Take.

3. Guided by the 3R principles of **Remit, Relevant and Reassurance**, the 50th FPDA Stock-Take provides future direction on the FPDA's strategic priorities, organisational processes and structure, and activity plans. Today, the Defence Ministers agreed for the FPDA to focus on continuing high-end warfighting serials with the introduction of 5th generation assets; enhancing the mission of counter-terrorism and maritime security of non-traditional domains; introducing cyber security progressively into FPDA exercises; and continuing the observership programme as a way to enhance transparency and reassurance with regional partners.

4. The meeting also commended partner-nations' commitment for the successful conduct of the Exercises, namely *Bersama Shield* in April 2021, *Suman Warrior* in July 2021, and *Bersama Gold* in October 2021. The recently concluded *Bersama Gold 2021*



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held this month was exclusively designed to mark the 50th FPDA Anniversary, and is also the first contactless FPDA Field Training Exercise (FTX) executed in a COVID-19 safe environment. The continuation of the exercise even during a pandemic is proof that the FPDA remains resilient and is able to adapt and overcome any challenges.

5. Malaysia is committed to supporting the Arrangements, and looks forward to the FPDA resuming full activities and exercises once the COVID-19 pandemic stabilises. Finally, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of FPDA, Malaysia is honoured to host the 50th FPDA Anniversary celebration which marks another historical milestone for the Arrangements, with a launching of the 50th FPDA Video, and memorabilia items comprised of 50th Anniversary book, coin, and stamps, ending with a commemorative Fly-Past at the Subang Air Base portraying FPDA's unity and cohesion over the last 50 years.

6. The Defence Ministers also had the opportunity to call upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob and the Prime Minister of Singapore His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong. The joint courtesy call was the first-ever done in the history of the FPDA. To reaffirm the partner-nations' commitment towards the Arrangement, the FPDA Defence Ministers also signed the 11th FDMM Joint Declaration to symbolise and commemorate our enduring partnership within a constructive regional security architecture.

YB DATO' SERI HISHAMUDDIN TUN HUSSEIN
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