

Mindef on the move, says Hishammuddin of ministry's recent achievements

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Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said Mindef's achievements proved that the ministry is always moving forward while urging civil servants to use their recent success as a motivation to improve further. -NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Defence Ministry (Mindef) has done well in the first quarter of this year after completing most of its 2022 plans, Senior Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said.

He said Mindef's achievements proved that the ministry is always moving forward while urging civil servants to use their recent success as a motivation to improve further.

According to Hishammuddin, the recent successes achieved by Mindef included the construction of Rumah Keluarga Malaysia Angkatan Tentera (RKMAT), and the acquisition of four Littoral Mission Ships (LMS) as well as six MD-530G helicopters.

"As a ministry and a team entrusted with maintaining national peace, we have no choice but to always shoulder our responsibilities with excellence and it has been proven.

"In less than four months, parts of the plans have been completed successfully," he said at the 2022 Defence Ministry Excellent Service Award (APC) and breaking of fast event here today.

Hishammuddin said the achievement in the housing agenda saw the completion of 305 RKMAT units in the Segamat Camp, 204 units in the Pakit Camp and 20 units in the Oran Camp.

He said the civil servants' welfare remained as the ministry's key agenda, adding that Mindef would continue to improve the dividend rate of the Armed Forces Fund Board (LTAT).

"The prime minister (Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob) announced on March 6 that the LTAT dividend for 2021 is 4.1 per cent, the highest since 2019.

"This will definitely boost morale of those in Mindef and LTAT to succeed in the next plan, namely in amending the Armed Forces Fund Act to enable the retirement fund managed by LTAT to be fully guaranteed by the government."

During the award ceremony, 291 Mindef officers and 45 armed forces officers received the Outstanding Service Award (APC) Year 2021 and the Distinguished Service and Character Medal (PPT) respectively.

"Before I conclude, I want us to come together in turning some hopes into reality and maintain the momentum in performing tasks.

"The awards you received tonight are not the apex, but the beginning to the next excellence. Never be quick to be satisfied. Mindef is on the move, and we cannot slow down now."