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Spiderman

FRENCHMAN TO BE ALLOWED TO SCALE PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- A Frenchman who was arrested for climbing the world's tallest building without permission last Thursday has now been given the greenlight to fulfil his wish.

Alain Robert, 34, has been allowed to scale one of the 88-storey Petronas Twin Towers here on April 5 to raise funds for charity, President of the 4B Youth Movement Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said today.

Robert, dubbed the Spiderman, has agreed that he will be responsible for the risk he is taking and will receive 10 per cent of the money raised, Mohd Ali told reporters after meeting him here.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed that Robert be allowed to undertake the feat, and the permission of Petrons and the police are being sought now.

Mohd Ali, who is the deputy transport minister, said the government decided to allow Robert to scale the tower in appreciation of his ability and also in the hope that the event would generate publicity for the twin towers and the nation.

The 4B Youth Movement will bear Robert's expenses in this country including for his accomodation until the event, he said.

Mohd Ali, who is also the president of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), said he has proposed that the money raised by the event be given to the National Heart Foundation, Malaysian Aids Foundation and WAY's Micro-Credit Foundation.

The Micro-Credit Foundation, which will be launched in June, will assist poor youths from all over the world to be self-sufficient.

Meanwhile, a happy Robert said he was thankful to the Malaysian government for giving him the opportunity to climb the 451.9 metre-high tower.

He said he had attempted to scale several highrise buildings since 1975 but was stopped by the authorities, and had managed to complete his climb only once when he scaled the Empire State Building in New York in 1995.

Yesterday, the Attroney-General's Chambers decided not to prosecute Robert for last Thursday's illegal climb of the tower. -- BERNAMA

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