

17 AUG 1997

Mahathir-Kinabalu

MAHATHIR PROCLAIMS NEW HEIGHT OF MOUNT KINABALU

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today officially proclaimed the new height of Low's Peak in Mount Kinabalu at 4,095.2 metres above sea level.

The height is 5.8 metre lower than the previous known height of the peak at 4,101 metres.

"I proclaim that Low's Peak is the highest point of Mount Kinabalu at 4,095.2 metre," he said at a dinner held in conjunction with the Perdana Cup Badmintons Championship held here tonight.

Dr Mahathir later put in several documents into a time capsule to be opened on June 25, 2050. His wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also put one of her belongings into the time capsule.

The new height of Low's Peak was obtained during an expedition of the mountain from June 23 to 25 this year to establish the exact height of the peak which was first and last heighted at 4,101 metres in 1910 by the Learmont's expedition.

According to the proclamation, the new height was established from the June 25 expedition using a new American system of computing the heighting, which is different from the British system.

The British system was used during the same expedition where it was announced that the new height of Low's Peak was 4,093.4 metres.

However the 4,093.4-metre height announced by Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee on top of the mountain on that day was correct, the proclamation said.

The existing height now of the highest peak is 4,095.2 metres above sea level.

The Low's Peak of the highest mountain in Southeast Asia was named after a British Governor-General in Perak, Sir Hugh Low, who was the first to have ascended the peak in an expedition with eight locals in 1957.

--BERNAMA

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