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Mahathir-Rally

MALAYSIA PLANS TO ORGANISE KL-BEIJING MOTOR RALLY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia hopes to organise a motor rally from Kuala Lumpur to the Chinese capital city of Beijing sometime in the future, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister, however, said the country would probably have to first organise rallies for shorter distance, possibly to Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam.

After that a route could be established from Malaysia to Kunming in China, before extending to Beijing, he said in a speech before flagging off participants of the 2nd Asian rally at the Merdeka Square here tonight.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was keen to have a rail service between the country and Kunming and the rally could help in efforts towards establishing such a link.

He said that apart from motor rallies, Malaysia also had major aspirations in other fields including in scaling mountains.

He said the success achieved by Malaysian climbers in conquering the Everest recently was due to the high spirits displayed by the people involved.

The Prime Minister said although many people have reached the Everest peak, the Malaysian climbers were among the first from a tropical nation to have done so.

Therefore, Malaysia had the right to celebrate the success, he said. It is not to show off but to raise the spirit of achieving success among the people.

The 2nd Asian Rally is an eight-day tour from Kuala Lumpur to Bangkok organised by the Motoring Association of Malaysia.

A total of 130 participants comprising 50 teams from six countries -- Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, United States, Australia and Taiwan -- are taking part in the 4,000 km race. -- BERNAMA

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