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Malaysia-Everest

M'SIAN CLIMBERS CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST

KUALA LUMPUR, May 23 (Bernama) -- Two Malaysian climbers made the country proud when they pitched the national flag on Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, today.

M.Magendran and N.Mohandas became national heroes when they conquered the 8,848m summit after braving thick snow, strong winds and freezing temperatures since March 1.

The historic "Malaysia Boleh" moment was televised live to Malaysians by RTM with the cooperation of Telekom Malaysia Berhad. News of their feat was relayed at 2.15pm.

Mohandas works for Shell Trading Sdn Bhd while Magendran is a teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Teluk Gong in Klang.

The duo, who are members of the Malaysian Climbing Association, are part of 20 climbers who attempted to scale the mountain in their first attempt.

Two others in the final group, Gary Choong, 39, and Mohd Fauzan Hassan, 29, could not make it due to health reasons.

The expedition "Projek Malaysia-Everest '97" is the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who launched it on June 4 last year.

Dr Mahathir handed over the Malaysian flag to the climbers on Feb 28 this year, a day before they left for Nepal. -- BERNAMA

ZAB/RAZ ZUL TS