

14/07/1997

Mt Everest team training youths in wall climbing

Izatun Hanim Shari

IPOH, Sun. - Youths are encouraged to participate in mountaineering activities, particularly wall climbing, to develop the sport which will be one of the competitions in the World Cup Series to be held in Kuala Lumpur next year.

Mount Everest '97 team leader Nor Ramlle Sulaiman said the team had been given the responsibility to popularise wall climbing among youths.

He said the team would focus on youths who are involved in the Rakan Muda programme.

"It will be a way to help the Government curb social ills among youths and encourage them to participate in sports.

"It will be an opportunity for the team members to share their skills while strengthening the country's team (base of mountain climbers)," Nor Ramlle said at a roadshow held at Greentown Mall shopping centre yesterday.

More than 500 people, particularly youths who are keen in mountaineering activities, swarmed the mall to meet the heroes who conquered the 8,848m high Mount Everest.

Fifteen members from the team were given a warm welcome by Datuk Bandar Datuk Ahmad Saleh Sharif who launched the roadshow.

Perak is the fourth State the team has visited as part of its nationwide roadshow which began in June.

Team members were greeted by a kompong group and entertained with traditional dances by Selendang Perak Dance Group.

A two-day exhibition on the Mount Everest '97 team's assault of the Himalayan peak was also organised by the State Youth and Sports Council.

Nor Ramlle also said the team would launch the "Program Gunung Angkat" to encourage mountain climbing among youths.

"The programme would be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad either next month or September," he said.

He said the team had identified 30 mountains throughout the country including Gunung Bubu and Gunung Korbu in Perak which participants could climb.

He added that training for participants would be conducted twice a month.

When asked about the future plans for the Mount Everest team, Nor Ramlle said expeditions to climb Mount Everest would become a fixed programme organised by the Government.

He said a team would climb the mountain once in three years.

"The next attempt will probably be in the year 2000 or 2001," he said.

He also said the team was planning to climb mountains on all seven continents.

Nor Ramlle said the team would discuss with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and submit a working paper on their programmes.

He said the team members would be sent for mountain climbing training abroad, like Scotland and New Zealand.

"Our team members need to be exposed to technical skills to achieve our main goals," he said.

(END)