

31/03/1997

Petronas urged to reconsider ban on climb

MALACCA, Sun. - Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said today he would write to Petronas to reconsider its decision to disallow French climber Alain Robert's attempt to scale the Petronas tower.

"The attempt could attract a lot of attention and expose our country to the outside world as the tallest building in the world.

"Robert should be given the opportunity to climb it. By next year, the tower will lose out to another building in Shanghai, China, as the tallest building in the world," he said, expressing hope that Petronas would support the good cause.

The two 88-storey towers are owned by Petronas.

On Wednesday, the building operators had turned down 4B's request, saying that the building was not designed to be climbed from the outside.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that he was in favour of the Frenchman climbing the building.

The organisers of the charity climb expect Robert to climb the building on April 6.

Proceeds from the climb would be donated to the AIDS Foundation, Heart Foundation, World Assembly of Youth's Micro-Credit Foundation and the KL Hospital Patient's Fund.

Robert had signed an agreement to accept all the risks involved.

On March 20, the police detained him for illegally climbing the tower. Robert had climbed up to the 60th floor when he was detained. Two days ago, he climbed a 14-storey hotel.

Robert, a professional rock climber who has been in Malaysia since last week, had grabbed headlines for his determination and drive to scale the tower.

(END)