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Mahathir-LTDL

DR MAHATHIR IN LANGKAWI TO LAUNCH CYCLING RACE

LANGKAWI, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here today to launch the third edition of the Le Tour de Langkawi 1998 cycling race.

Soon after arrival on a special flight, the Prime Minister went to a hotel in Teluk Burau to have lunch with the team managers and competitors from more than 10 countries.

The 12-day race will begin tomorrow in Langkawi and end at the Merdeka Square in Kuala Lumpur on March 3.

Tomorrow the individual time trials will be held with the racers riding from Datai to Jalan Pantai Kok, a distance of 16KM.

Telekom Malaysia Berhad Chairman Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan is scheduled to flag-off the race at the Teluk Datai Golf Club here at about 8.30am.

The LTDL has won recognition as the best cycling race in Asia and third biggest in the world after the Tour de France and Giro de Italia in terms of participation and distance covered.

The race will see world champions competing along with the best in Asia.

Some 150 competitors from 25 teams from professional world class clubs in Italy, Holland, Germany, Britain, Finland, Kazakhstan, Australia, South Afrika and Asian nations including Malaysia are taking part in the 12-phase race organised by First Cartel (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

Mapei Bricobi, the world number one team for four consecutive years with a record of 97 wins in various international events is expected to lead the challenge in this race also. The team comprises Andrea Tafi, Giuseppe Di Grande, Giuliano Figueras, Gabriele Missaglia, Daniele Nardello and Zbigniew Spruch.-- BERNAMA

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