

06 DEC 1998

PREMIER BOOST FOR SNAKE CHARMER'S RECORD ATTEMPT

LANGKAWI, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today given the honour of launching an attempt by snake charmer Othman Ayeb to get listed in the Malaysia Book of Records by staying with poisonous snakes in a cage.

Dr Mahathir untied a box containing 150 snakes, mostly cobras, at Taman Lagenda here where Othman hopes to spend 27 days caged up with the reptile.

Othman, 31, who won an international snake charming title in Perlis last year, is trying to break the record held by "King of Snakes" Hussain Dastagir, who spent 20 days with poisonous snakes.

Othman also showed his skill in treating snake bites with traditional medicine after he was bitten on the right thigh by a snake.

The snake show was organised by Syarikat Nurdesa Rimbawi with the cooperation of the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and LADA Holding Sdn Bhd as part of efforts to attract more tourists to the island.

Organising chairman Mohd Nasir Abdul Aziz said visitors to the snake show could get a 20 percent discount on LADA ferry fares.

He said attractive prizes await lucky visitors, including the 500th spectator of the show.

-- BERNAMA

ZI NH YBY