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Muhyiddin-North Pole

M'SIANS TO CREATE HISTORY IN NORTH POLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- After conquering Mount Everest in May last year, Malaysians are set for another historic expedition -- to parachute down the North Pole, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced today.

The North Pole Parachuting Expedition, planned by the Malaysian Parachuting Association and under the patronage of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, would make Malaysia the first Asian nation to send parachutists there, he said.

"This is an excellent effort to prove the ability of Malaysians in venturing to the four corners of the world after the success of the Everest project," he told reporters here.

Muhyiddin said 23 people, including 12 jumpers from the air force, army, navy and police will form the expedition from April 1 to 28.

He said the programme, costing RM1 million, is supported by the ministry as well as private sponsors.

Expedition leader and national parachuting association president Abdul Rahim Dahalan said the team will leave for Moscow on April 1 for training before making the jump in the North Pole on April 20.

He said the parachutists will jump from a height of 3,658 metres (12,000 feet) and land near a Russian Arctic air base.

Parachutists from Canada and the United States have indicated interest in joining the expedition, he said.

Dr Mahathir will launch the expedition on March 30. -- BERNAMA

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