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Sheer test of endurance, says PM

Zakri Baharudin

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said riders taking part in the Le Tour de Langkawi would face a sheer test of endurance in the 12-day bicycle race.

"The Le Tour de Langkawi is different from the other races in Europe simply because of the country's climate and atmosphere," said Dr Mahathir at the opening of the race at the Berjaya Beach Spa Hotel in Langkawi yesterday.

"The riders should take this opportunity to test their real strength and stamina under the hot and humid tropical conditions as opposed to the temperate and dry European climate."

Dr Mahathir, who is the Patron of the Tour, also acknowledged the sponsors of the 1,820km race which is offering RM1.6 million in prize money.

The total organisational budget for the race is estimated at RM15 million.

The main sponsors are Telekom Malaysia who are also the title sponsors. They gave RM6 million in cash and kind.

The other sponsors are Petronas, Genting, Maybank, Plus, Gamuda, Vico, Berjaya Group, DRB-Hicom, Hong Leong and Chocolate Products.

Supporting the annual event are Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games organisers Sukom Ninety-Eight Berhad and Kruze Cola.

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