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LTdL-Malaysia

APPLY RIGHT STRATEGY, MALAYSIAN RIDERS TOLD

LANGKAWI, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysian cyclists competing in the Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) '99 which begins here tomorrow have been advised to apply the correct strategy and avoid injuries to do well.

National cycling coach Ng Joo Ngan said today they should exercise caution as the criterium race in the first stage of the LTdL in Kuah town, here, involved many competitors on narrow routes.

"I have reminded them not to be over anxious in the criterium race due to the treacherous roads."

"There's no point for them to endanger themselves because if any of them suffers injuries they can say goodbye to the event," Joo Ngan said after the LTdL welcoming lunch with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, here.

The tour kicks off tomorrow with the time trial event in the morning and afternoon criterium race around Kuah town.

On the time trial event, Joo Ngan said the hilly terrain might pose problems to Malaysian riders compared with the more experienced professional cyclists.

However, the one-month training before the LTdL should reflect whether the Malaysians were able to be among Asia's best in the event.

Cyclists from the Philippines, China and Indonesia are known to be adept in hilly terrains, he said.

Joo Ngan said Tsen Seong Hoong and Shahrulneeza Razali were the best Malaysian hopes for the event.

The other Malaysian riders are Nor Affandy Rosli, Musairi Musa, Mohamed Mahadzir Hamad and Suhaimi Keton.

-- BERNAMA

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