

24 DEC 1999

MOST CHALLENGING CLIMB IN LE TOUR DE LANGKAWI

LANGKAWI, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Riders participating in the Le Tour de Langkawi 2000 from Jan 25 will face one of the toughest climbs in the world for the race.

An official of First Cartel (M) Sdn Bhd Syed Mustafa Shahabudin, who is also chief of protocol for Le Tour de Langkawi, said today the fourth stage of the race from Lumut to Tanah Rata stretching 162.5 kilometres would be held on Jan 29.

Riders will not only face a steep climb but it is also the longest climb in the world for cycling so far, he said here.

The Le Tour de Langkawi championship will begin on Jan 25 until Feb 6. It is scheduled to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The prestigious race will be participated by 25 teams including 19 professional and national teams and organised by First Cartel (M) Sdn Bhd. It is among the best races in the world besides Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

The fifth edition of the championship covers 12 stages stretching 1,600 kilometres and will be participated by 250 riders and it will be the first and biggest race organised by Malaysia in the new millennium, said Syed Mustafa.

Ten of the 16 professional teams are new faces in the Le Tour de Langkawi which offers total prize money of RM1.5 million.

-- BERNAMA

ZI NH AO