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PM hands Jalur Gemilang to Millennium Jump team

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. - The Malaysian team that will make the Millennium Jump over the South Pole received a morale booster today when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad handed them the Jalur Gemilang.

The skydive by the eight-member team, including a woman, will be the first to be attempted by an Asian country.

The team, which has just returned from a special high altitude training stint in the United States, is led by Abdul Rahim Dahalan.

The other members are Sazale Long, Ali Othman, Abdul Shukor Nasarudin, Azlan Ismail, Dr Kamaruddin Md Isa and Mohd Yatim and Nordziah Mohd Noor.

The event, "The Millennium Jump 2000 - Malaysian Time Capsule Mission for Mankind", is jointly organised by Fikiran Syndicate, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Millennium Fiji.

In the brief ceremony at the Prime Minister's Department, Dr Mahathir was introduced to the skydivers. He also gave words of encouragement and advice to them.

After the South Pole jump, they will skydive at four other locations through the year 2000 and plant time capsules, containing among others, messages from Malaysians to future generations.

These are at Mount Kinabalu, Terumbu Layang-Layang in the Spratly Islands, Vanua Levu in Fiji (site of the Meridian Park which lies on the 180 degree meridian line, first to greet sunlight of the year 2000) and finally in Kuala Lumpur.

The capsules will only be recovered in 100 years on Jan 1, 2100, except the one at Terumbu Layang-Layang which will be retrieved on Jan 1, 2020.

Abdul Rahim said despite the various challenges, the team was confident of making a successful jump as they had trained hard for the event. "We have successfully completed training jumps at 19,000, 21,000 and 23,000 feet above sea level in the US."

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