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PM to launch World Mountain race

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. - A customary ritual called Momulangah will be performed by 20 bobolian or native priests before the start of the 15th World Mountain Running Trophy on Sept 18.

The word Momulangah is a Dusun term which means to free a location or place of bad spirits which might cause disturbance and bring misadventures to the living.

This ritual will be performed after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the event at the Kinabalu Park in Kundasang, about 85 kilometres from here.

Dr Mahathir will give a speech and then strike the gong thrice to mark the official launch of the event.

Some 500 participants and officials from all over the world would be present at the launch. The actual race will be held on Sept 19.

According to an official of the organising committee, there would also be a hang-gliding feat launched from an altitude 3,750 metres near the mountain's South Peak at 7am.

The race is divided into four categories - men's and women's open, and men's and women's junior.

The men's open will cover 12.5km, men's junior and women's open over 7.8km and the women's junior 4.1km.

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