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World's premier expedition race

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will hand over the Jalur Gemilang to the country's two participating teams in the Eco-Challenge Sabah 2000 on Thursday.

The Prime Minister will also officiate at the event sponsors' special presentation ceremony at the grand ballroom of the Magellan Sutera Hotel & Spa, here.

The two teams - Team Sabah 2000 and Team Toyota 2020 - will compete with 78 international teams in the two-week, non-stop 500km race across Sabah from Aug 20.

A participating team from Costa Rica is already in Sabah to prepare for the race.

The organisers of the race, co-ordinated by the Sabah Tourism Promotion Corporation (STPC), received sponsorship worth RM1.2 million from Telekom Malaysia yesterday.

Under the sponsorship services agreement signed between STPC and Telekom, the utility giant will supply the organisers with telephones, fax machines, Internet and 16-channel satellite phones for remote areas.

Telekom subsidiary Mobikom Sdn Bhd will also provide 65 units of cellular phones and access fees worth RM49,000.

The agreement was signed by STPC general manager Irene Charuruk while Telekom was represented by its Sabah region general manager Ramsah Mohd Tahir.

The ceremony was witnessed by STPC chairman Tengku Datuk Dr Zainal Adlin and Telekom major business sales manager Dayang Nuripah Pengiran Awang Tinggal.

Dubbed the world's premier expedition race, the race will be covered by CBS and Discovery Channel.

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