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Sports-Cycling (LTdL)

ENTRIES STILL BEING SUBMITTED FOR LTdL 2001 - FIRST CARTEL

LANGKAWI, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Entries for the Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) 2001 are still being submitted by foreign cycling outfits despite the number of competing teams being fixed at 25.

First Cartel Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Wan Lokman Wan Ibrahim said among the teams who submitted the entries were professional sides from Italy, Denmark and Germany.

"Their entries will only be accepted if there are last minute pullouts from the competing teams," he said after attending the LTdL 2001 organising committee meeting here today.

This year's edition of the LTdL, the 6th in its series, offers RM1 million in prize money. Accorded the 2.3 status by the International Cycling Federation (UCI), it is considered as the third best in the world after the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will flag-off the 15-day race at the Dataran Lang here on Feb 4.

The 25 teams competing in the 12-stage LTdL 2001, which covers 1,838km, comprises five Class One professional cycling outfits, 12 Class Two, seven national sides and the Telekom Malaysia All Stars squad.

Among the professional sides are Mapei-Quick Step, Saeco Macchine Per Caffè, Cantina Tollo (Italy), CSC-World Online (Denmark), Mercury-Viatel (United States), Credit Agricole (France) and Phonak (Switzerland).

As for the Malaysian national side, they are expected to face stiff competition from South Africa, Japan, China apart from Asean neighbours Philippines and Indonesia.

-- BERNAMA

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