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Couple-Expedition

COUPLE TO GO ROUND THE GLOBE ON FOUR WHEELS

By: Farhanah Azmi

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Retired army major Mohd Arshad Khan wants to spread the "Malaysia Boleh" slogan around the world and he wants to do it with his wife Salina Abdullah on a 4-wheel-drive vehicle.

The ambitious plan by Arshad, 58, and Salina who is three years his junior, has received the nod from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and supported by the Youth and Sports Ministry and Malaysian embassies abroad.

Arshad said his 15 years in the army and journeys to several distant nations has heightened his desire to go around the globe.

"I harbour an ambition to go around the world since I was a second lieutenant in the army. I have been putting it on hold until after I left the service," he told Bernama here today.

Arshad said his journey is supposed to start end this month but it has to be put off until end of February or early March due to technical glitches.

He has already spent RM70,000 on his "globe-trotting" project and needs another RM400,000 which he hopes to raise from sponsors.

"The Prime Minister has already given me the support and inspiration but I still need assistance from sponsors.

"I hope with the support and publicity given by the media, the private sector will come to assist me," he said.

The Ipoh-born Arshad said he expects the expedition to take about five to six months.

Arshad and Salina have the experience on going on 4-wheel-drive vehicle journeys alone in several countries like the United Kingdom, Nigeria and Thailand.

"I have also been to the interiors of Sabah using logging routes. I hope this experience proves to be invaluable for my around the world expedition," he said.

For this expedition, Arshad plans to drive a turbo-powered Toyota Land Cruiser XV with the registration number "Putrajaya 2002".

The husband and wife hope to start their journey in India and will pass through Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Europe, Canada, Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

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