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Ex-soldier to run into record book

PASIR MAS, Thurs. - Former soldier Nasir Abas today began a run which will take him on a 1,754-km journey around the peninsula and into the Malaysia Book of Records.

The 47-year-old said he drew inspiration to attempt the feat from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and had received support from his family as well.

"I want to end the run in 30 days in conjunction with the National Day celebrations and make it into the Malaysia Book of Records," he said before the flag-off in Rantau Panjang by Kelantan Youth and Sports director Saari Salleh at 8.30am.

Nasir, from Taman Rakyat in Alor Star, said he had been training for a month by running 20km daily.

He is a veteran in running events including the Sea Games Torch Run in 2001.

From Rantau Panjang, Nasir will head for Kota Baru, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan, Johor Baru, Malacca, Seremban, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh, Butterworth, Kangar and end at Alor Star.

Nasir is expected to take between 1,200 and 1,430 hours to cover the entire route, and is scheduled to arrive in Alor Star shortly before the National Day countdown.

The run is organised by the Kedah Youth and Sports Department with the co-operation of its counterparts in the various States in conjunction with the National Day celebrations.