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Expedition-Funds

WORLD TRIP ON FOUR WHEEL DRIVE DEFERRED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 23 (Bernama) --A couple's dream of circling the globe on a four wheel drive has yet to materialise due to lack of sponsorship.

Retired Mejar Mohamed Arshad Khan, 58, and his wife Salina Abdullah were scheduled to leave in January but have now deferred the trip to April, hopefully with some private sector sponsorships chipping in.

Mohamed Arshad said they were still waiting for response from the private sector for sponsorship of their expedition.

The couple said that the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was willing to flag them off at Putrajaya, last month, enroute to Calcutta via Penang by ship to begin their journey that will take them through 26 countries covering some 40,000 km.

He told Bernama they had finalised details of the trip and had liased with the relevant parties such as diplomatic missions overseas as well as with Wisma Putra.

"The missions we contacted are aware of our itinerary and are just awaiting the confirmed dates from us," he said.

The couple's journey will include India, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Europe, Canada, United States, Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Mohamed Arshad, from Ipoh, said the proposal for the trip, planned two years ago had received positive response and endorsement from both the Prime Minister's office and the Youth and Sports Ministry.

He said they will visit the War Memorial while in Japan, and are scheduled to meet with members of ex-servicemen associations as well as to visit graves of soldiers who died in the Second World War while in the Commonwealth member countries.

On the couple's preparations for the trip, Mohamed Arshad said prior to this they had embarked on a similar journey on their own, covering the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand and had traversed across Sabah via the logging route.

The couple's forthcoming expedition will span two hot deserts, include snow-covered areas such as the Himalayas and will stretch across three oceans.

"As Prime Minister Dr Mahathir had advised, we will bring along a lap-top and a mobile phone with international roaming for communication and for sending our reports via the web," he added.

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