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Students-Kala Pattar  
STUDENT FAUZI AIMS TO SCALE MOUNT EVEREST NEXT

KOTA BAHARU, May 22 (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) student Muhammad Fauzi Jasni, 19, who successfully scaled Mount Kala Pattar in Nepal with 26 others this month has now set his sights on a second challenge - to scale Mount Everest and make the nation proud.

The student of Information Studies says he would like to emulate two Malaysian climbers who conquered Everest in 1997 -- M.Mahendran and N.Mohanandas -- and to keep the "Malaysia Boleh" flag flying.

The UiTM students scaled the mountain on May 1 under the "XPDC Kala Pattar And Everest Base Camp" team that set off on April 20 and returned on May 7.

Muhammad Fauzi says, "Our success at Kala Pattar has created a burning desire in me to move to the next step, that is the Everest, and I am confident of conquering it," he told Bernama here.

The Kala Pattar, at 5,545 metres or at least twice the height of Gunung Kinabalu is frequently used as a test before proceeding to ascend Everest, the world's highest peak.

Muhammad Fauzi said the team members, including six female climbers had placed thousands of the Jalur Gemilang or national flags at the peak in the shape of the letter "M", at a height of 4,000 metres.

He said the letter "M" was selected for the formation at the peak as it could indicate "Malaysia, Mahathir, MARA, Melayu and Muslim".

The climbers had received guidance from an Everest climber, Fauzan Hassan, who works at the University.

Muhammad Fauzi who hails from Kampung Tanjung Mas here said the team had embarked on several climbs since the end of last year to familiarise themselves.

These included ascending major peaks in the country such as Bukit Taboh, Gunung Ledang, Gunung Nuang, Gunung Berinchang and Genting Highlands.

"However the weather at the peak of Kala Pattar was below freezing point and most of the climbers suffered from headaches," he said.

The team members also suffered bouts of food poisoning but managed to handle the situation and proceeded to the peak.

Muhammad Fauzi who also experienced severe stomach upset midway during the expedition decided to continue his quest with encouragement from other team members.

The student climber who had never been exposed to mountain climbing prior to this trip said he was happy with the expedition and had received support and continuous encouragement from his family.

"Prior to the event I was a cyclist representing Kelantan for the cross-country and road race events and had never imagined I would switch to mountain climbing," he said.

Muhammad Fauzi also advised youths to spend their time taking up endurance sports instead of loafing.

Endurance sports such as mountain climbing would undeniably offer a high level of satisfaction while at the same time help promote the country and keep the "Malaysia Boleh" spirit alive, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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