

Encouraging words

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DOVER, Tues. — "Malaysia Boleh. So I am sure Malik can. We pray he succeeds."

These were the spurring words offered by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a letter to marathon swimmer Malik Mydin, who received it as he waited for the right moment to go to Shakespeare Bay here and begin his swim across the English Channel.

The short but meaningful message was conveyed by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein to Malik when the two met at the High Commissioner of Malaysia's office in the United Kingdom.

He said Dr Mahathir would follow each of the 66,000 strokes Malik would do until he reached Calais, France.

Hishammuddin said he hoped Malik's determination and commitment would be an example for Malaysian youths.

The effort would hopefully follow Malaysia's track record of achievers who conquered Everest, sailed solo around the world and cycled around the world.

Also at the Press conference were

Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK Datuk Salleh Hashim, the sports ministry's deputy secretary-general Datuk Talaat Husain and director-general Datuk Raja Ruslan Raja Samah.

Malik is scheduled to swim across the English Channel from

Shakespeare Bay to Cap Griz Nez in Calais, a distance of 32.8km, today.

However, the time will be determined later, depending on the Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation's (CSPF) report on water conditions.