

04 AUG 2003

Malik-Mother

MALIK'S MOTHER GRATEFUL TO GOD ON HER SON'S HISTORIC FEAT

BUTTERWORTH, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Jorabi Seeni Mohamed, the mother of Malaysia's marathon swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin, is grateful to God over her son's historic feat to swim across the 32.8km-English Channel early today.

"I'm thankful to God Almighty for my son's success. I'm very happy he has completed the challenge safely.

"I always had the confidence in the seriousness of Malik because he trained very hard. His success is a victory to all Malaysians who always prayed for him to realise his dream to conquer the English Channel," she said when met at her house in Bagan Lebai Tahir, near here.

Jorabi and her daughter Siti Khatijah received the good news through TV3's "Malaysia Hari Ini" talkshow programme at about 8.30am.

Malik created history as the first Malaysian to swim across the channel early today.

He reached the Wissant Beach in Calais, France at 7.50pm local time (3.50am Malaysian time).

Malik began the swim at 2.08am (London time) 9.08am Malaysian time yesterday from Abbots Cliff Beach, about 5km from the Dover Marine Base, after it was deferred since July 23 due to inclement weather.

Jorabi said Malik often contacted her while in Dover and called her at 8pm last night (1am London time) before embarking on his mission.

"I gave him encouragement and prayed for his success. I was confident he will succeed in realising his dream because he showed seriousness in his determination and training," she said.

Jorabi thanked everyone who played their role in one way or another for Malik's success, especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who inspired Malik to conquer the world's most challenging channel.

She hoped more youngsters would emulate the fighting spirit of her son to excel in whatever field they ventured into to bring fame to Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

NH TS