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Sports-Malik

KUALA PERLIS-LANGKAWI SWIM FOR MALIK BEFORE ENGLISH CHANNEL BID

By: Asan Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Abdul Malik Maidin, who is bidding to be the first Malaysian to swim across the English Channel this August, plans to swim from Kuala Perlis to Langkawi, a distance of 48km, on May 24.

He would slip into the waters at Kuala Perlis at 8.30pm that day and is expected to reach Dataran Lang in Langkawi some 20 hours later. This would be Abdul Malik's final practice before he makes the English Channel attempt.

The 27-year-old Butterworth son, said the exact date for the English Channel bid had yet to be fixed as it depended on several factors like the water currents there which at times could be dangerous.

The former cyclist said he preferred to train at night as the water in the English Channel was expected to be very cold in August.

"I have been training very hard in the past two years and this includes eight-hour sessions daily. I have also met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who gave his blessings," Abdul Malik told Bernama said before he left for training in Melbourne, Australia recently.

In Melbourne, Abdul Malik who is sponsored by Malaysian Electronic Corporation (MEC), would be training under the watchful eyes of John Van Wisse.

He had done two previous long distance attempts -- a swim from Butterworth to Padang Kota in Penang which took two hours and 45 minutes, over a distance of 7.8km, to collect donations for the Kosovo fund in 2000.

The other was in 2001 for the 21st SEA Games torch run where he completed 11km from Bukit Tambun jetty until Pulau Aman on six hours and four minutes.

Dr Mahathir is expected to witness Abdul Malik's Kuala Perlis-Langkawi attempt, staged to collect funds for the National Cancer Council (Makna).

-- BERNAMA

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