

06 SEP 2003

Paramotor-Record

FIVE CREATE RECORD FOR PARAMOTOR FLIGHT ACROSS MELAKA STRAITS

ALOR STAR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Five paramotorists arrived here today to create a record as the first group to cross the Melaka Straits with the motorised parachutes.

The event, billed as the Langkawi-Kuala Perlis-Alor Star Paramotor Marathon 2003 involving a distance of 96km, was jointly organised by the Langkawi Aerial Recreation Club (KRUL), the Kedah and Perlis Tourism Action Councils and the Malaysian Paramotor Association.

Kedah Tourism Action Council general manager Mansor Ismail, who is also chairman of the event, said the feat was due to be entered into the Malaysia Book of Records.

He said four of the five men found their way safely to the drop zone at the Sekolah Menengah Tunku Abdul Rahman, Mergong football field but another man landed at another school.

Malaysian Motorised Paragliding Association president and expedition leader Lt Kol (R) Basir Abdul Rahman was the first to arrive at 4.28pm followed by association secretary Rohaizi Md Hussin, 33.

The two others were Mohamad Mos, 27, and Minggat Spencer, 45, while William Wong, 49, drifted wide and landed at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tengku Abdul Malik football field, Mansor said.

He said the team, initially with eight people, started from the Padang Matsirat International Airport, Langkawi at 10am and landed in Kuah, 23km away, some 20 minutes later.

After a female participant dropped out due to technical problems, the team flew 33km to Kuala Perlis at 12.05pm and landed at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kuala Perlis at 1.35pm.

The final five then took off for the 40km flight to Alor Star at 3.40pm.

Mansor said the paramotorists would meet with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was on a working visit, at the Kepala Batas Airport here tomorrow.

"Dr Mahathir was the inspiration of the programme in 1999," he said.

Meanwhile, Basir related that his paramotor ran out of fuel while crossing the Melaka Straits as he had to fly to and fro to keep an eye on the other participants.

"I had to land at sea, be saved by the marine police and taken to Kuala Perlis where I used a new paramotor to continue the flight to Alor Star," he said.

Basir said the weather from Langkawi to Kuala Perlis was good but the flight to Alor Star faced rough winds.

He also said that today's success gave him the spirit to continue efforts to create more records and one day paramotor from Melaka to Sumatera, Indonesia.

-- BERNAMA

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