

25 MAY 2003

Swim-Record

MALIK CONQUERS LANGKAWI CHALLENGE ON 14 HOURS THREE MINUTES

LANGKAWI, May 25 (Bernama) -- Abdul Malik Mydin reached the Kuah Jetty here at 11.48am today to successfully complete the 48km marathon swim from Kuala Perlis on 14 hours and three minutes.

The 28-year-old businessman and former national cyclist arrived to a grand welcome by some 1,000 people who include Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir flagged off Abdul Malik at the Kuala Perlis jetty at 9.45pm yesterday and the Penangite was initially expected to take 20 hours to complete the swim, billed the Langkawi Challenge.

This was part of Abdul Malik's preparation for his mission to swim across the English Channel, from Dover in England to Cap Gris Nez, Calais in France either in July or August.

Abdul Malik's feat today was also recorded in the The Malaysia Book of Records (MBR).

Dr Mahathir also took a boat to follow the final part of Abdul Malik's swim today.

Abdul Malik had taken part in the 26km International Sri Chinmoy Marathon Swim in Zurich August last year and was placed 15th.

His name had made its way to the MBR after swimming from Bukit Tambun Jetty to Pulau Aman, Penang, a distance of 11km on May 4, 2001 on four hours and six minutes.

For his English Channel bid, Abdul Malik is training under Australians Alison Streeter and John Van Wise.

When speaking to reporters later, Abdul Malik said he was thankful for being able to complete the Langkawi Challenge.

"I cannot describe how happy I am as I have tried twice before but failed on both occasions," he said.

"I have promised Dr Mahathir to set a record of 20 hours to swim from Kuala Perlis to Langkawi and I have done it with a much faster time," he said.

Abdul Malik said he had received tremendous support from various parties especially the prime minister who is the patron of the English Channel Challenge to be undertaken by the swimmer.

"Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is my idol and my determination grows stronger due to his support and encouragement," he said.

Abdul Malik also said strong waves had slowed down his swim in the last 15km of the distance before the Kuah Jetty.

The Langkawi Challenge, held to collect donations for the National Cancer Council (Makna), managed to net RM110,000 in contributions from the Kedah state government, MEC Marketing Sdn Bhd and Naza Group of Companies.

-- BERNAMA

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