

27 JUL 2003

Peace-Expedition

POSTCARD PEACE MISSION BY SOLO M'SIAN RIDER

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27 (Bernama) -- Fully-recovered heart patient Suhaimi Joleman will embark on a noble mission to spread the message of peace by crossing continents on his motorcycle next month.

Suhaimi, 37, will also distribute postcards of peace from Malaysians in his gruelling 16-week 19,500km journey on his BMW R1100GS motorcycle.

"My desire is to travel by motorbike and distribute these postcards to the citizens of the world," he said after receiving 600 postcards and a token sum from Ansara president Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir here today.

The idea was mooted by Ansara - the association for ex-students of Mara Junior Science Colleges - but the project is self-funded and despite having no major sponsor for his solo mission, Suhaimi will still go ahead.

"I can live on RM300 a day and overall I need about RM200,000 to accomplish this mission. At the moment I am using whatever funds I have and from friends. I don't have any corporate support but this mission is definitely going," he said.

Mukhriz said this was part of Malaysia's efforts to promote peace across the world and "we are fully behind this mission. We played a pivotal role in organising the Peace Malaysia congress in February and this particular mission is a continuation of that".

Suhaimi will depart to Istanbul, Turkey on August 9 to ride across Europe and from London he will travel to Africa.

On his heart problem, the confident adventurer said: "I am fully recovered now and just have to pace myself for the mission."

The public can reach Suhaimi at www.outdoormalaysia.com and he is calling for more postcards from Malaysians as he believes the postcards will lead to a bond of friendship between senders and their eventual recipients.

-- BERNAMA

VP HK EMK