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PPP-Malik

PPP PROPOSES INSTITUTE OF ACHIEVERS

IPOH, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- It is time that the government or private bodies establish an "Institute of Achievers" dedicated to many Malaysians who have made the country proud by accomplishing great feats, said People's Progressive Party youth chief, T. Murugiah.

He said many Malaysians had scored firsts in many fields but their wealth of experience, knowledge and leadership skills were not being explored.

"These people made a lot of sacrifices and put their life at risk to achieve extraordinary things and enhance Malaysia's name. But once their missions are accomplished and with some honours, they are forgotten," he said here today.

Murugiah said the feat by marathon swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin in crossing the English Channel should be used as a platform to establish an institute of achievers.

He said the country was not short of achievers, citing the Mount Everest climbers, the group that made the jump in the North Pole, former Formula One driver Alex Yoong and the two brothers who reached the North Pole.

Abdul Malik, a former national cyclist, created history on Monday when he became the second Asian to cross the English Channel by completing the 58km stretch in 17 hours and 25 minutes.

On May 23, 1997, M. Magendran and N. Mohanadass became the first Malaysians to conquer the 8,848m Mount Everest, taking up a challenge from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Malaysians to plant Jalur Gemilang on the peak of the world's highest mountain.

Three years ago, Perlis-born Datuk Azhar Mansor became the first yachtsman to circumnavigate the world on a new route starting and finishing in the Indian Ocean compared to others who started off from the Atlantic Ocean.

A group of 16 parachutists landed on the drop zone of the North Pole on April, 21, 1998 where the temperature was -25 degree Celsius, after jumping from an altitude of 2,600m with temperature of -42 degree Celsius.

Justin Read, 19, and Gerald Read, 25, also carved their name by becoming the first Malaysians to reach the North Pole on April 19, 1998.

Yoong was the first Malaysian to drive in the prestigious Formula One race when he turned up for the KL Minardi Team last year.

Murugiah said the achievements of these people showed the aspiration of Malaysians to achieve greater heights despite facing many obstacles.

He said by setting up such an institute, either independently or in an institution of higher learning, the younger generation could learn and emulate the success of the achievers.

Murugiah said reports, photos, video clips and other related materials could be exhibited at the proposed institute and the achievers themselves could become lecturers or deliver talks.

"Every country has its own heroes and we should be proud of ours. But it's a pity that their wide range of knowledge and experience are not being put to good use," he added.

He said such an institute could go a long way in realising Dr Mahathir's Vision 2020.

-- BERNAMA

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