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Sports-Ras Adiba

RAS ADIBA ANSWERS MALAYSIA BOLEH CALL

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Disabled athlete Ras Adiba Radzi will answer the call of "Malaysia Boleh" by going on a solo 398km wheelchair expedition starting Aug 7.

The two-week trek was to mark the inaugural Wheelchair Expedition 2003 to increase awareness about the disabled, said Youth and Sports Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Talaat Husain.

"We hope this would create awareness about the disabled apart from enhancing the spirit to face "Malaysia Boleh" challenges such as this," he told a press conference on the programme here today.

The expedition also aims to create a record for the longest distance travelled on a wheelchair by a woman.

The journey, to start in Johor Baharu, will pass through Pontian Kecil, Benut, Koris, Peserai (Johor), Sungai Rambai, Padang Temu, Sungai Udang, Pengkalan Balak (Melaka), Kuala Linggi, Pasir Panjang, Lukut, Tanah Merah (Negeri Sembilan), Sepang, Dengkil (Selangor) and end up in Putrajaya.

Ras Adiba's arrival in Dataran Putrajaya on Aug 20 is expected to be met by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the expedition patron.

During the expedition, the former television personality will be accompanied by her assistant coach, her mother and two physiotherapists.

Meanwhile, Ras Adiba said she hoped such programmes would encourage people to give support as well as financial contributions.

She said during the journey, she would also visit universities and schools to raise awareness for the disabled.

She said the Malaysian Confederation of the Disabled was also collecting donations of RM1 per person.

-- BERNAMA

NKS SAK AHH EMK