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Jet-Ski-Arrive

RECORD-SETTING JET-SKI RIDERS ARRIVE IN KOTA KINABALU

KOTA KINABALU, June 27 (Bernama) -- Four Malaysians who jet-skied across the South China Sea from west to east Malaysia arrived here this afternoon, wrapping up a record-setting 18 days' journey in the gruelling 2,411.3km ride.

The quartet of Alex Chai, 35, Simon Low, 35, Rosli Bagat, 38, and Nazar Omar, 38, skied to their final point at the Sutera Harbour Marina, here, where they alighted from their machine at 3.20pm.

The beating of the kompong welcomed the four riders who had battled scorching heat and waves as high as three metres at times in the event dubbed the Malaysia X 2003 challenge.

The team was received by Sabah Tourism Board chairman Datuk Tengku Zainal Adlin Tengku Mahmood.

The team set off from Langkawi on June 10 before moving to Penang, Lumut, Port Klang, Melaka, Johor Baharu, Pulau Acastar, Pulau Muri, Kuching, Mukah, Miri, Labuan and this state capital.

Team leader Chai said they were feeling great, having accomplished their mission, which is the first of its kind in the country and is set to be inscribed in the Malaysia Book of Records as the farthest distance jet-ski challenge.

"We were really determined to complete the mission. Nobody in the team complained. We were happy and enjoying ourselves," he said.

He said that the most challenging route was the 300km ride from Johor Baharu to Pulau Acastar, one of the two islands where the team made an overnight stop en route to Kuching.

"We encountered really bad weather just after passing Pulau Batu Puteh. It was 300km of constant pounding. During the tossing and turning, we could barely see each other because the waves kept blocking our view but we managed to overcome the waves one after another," he said.

Asked on what they would do next, he said that they might consider circumnavigating the Borneo island.

"But as of now, I will have to go back to work...it has been a month I have not been working," said Chai who owns a transport and forwarding company in Miri.

Team manager Bruce Chai said they would attribute the success to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a parting gift before the prime minister steps down in October.

-- BERNAMA

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