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Sports-Antarctica

THREE MALAYSIANS PLAN TO CROSS THE ANTARCTICA

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Three Malaysians plan to create another history in an extraordinary activity by traversing the Antarctica on Oct 15.

The Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Dr M. Kamaruddin Md Isa, as expedition leader, said he would lead two of his friends, Suhardi Alias and Sharifah Mazlina Syed Abdul Kadir in the mission.

Suhardi is an expert on nutrition and serves with the National Sports Council (NSC) while Sharifah Mazlina is a lecturer in the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM).

"We will travel a distance of 3800 kilometres within 120 days depending on weather condition...but if the weather is fine, the expedition may take shorter than 120 days," Kamaruddin said after the launching of the expedition logo, here today.

He said the expedition was in response to the challenge thrown by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysians traversed the Antarctica in line with the "Malaysia Boleh" spirit.

If all preparations run smoothly, the three individuals will start their expedition from the Blue One Station owned by Russia and will end their journey at Scott Base (the research station owned by New Zealand), covering the North Pole route to the south.

Kamaruddin said besides walking, other modes of travelling would be used during the expedition including wind sailing and ice skiing.

However, he said this would depend on weather condition.

The Antarctica is the southern-most continent and has the coldest temperature. The lowest temperature recorded at the Vostok Station owned by Russia was -89.2 Celsius (-128.6F) in July 1983.

It is also the fifth largest continent in the world measuring 14,200,000 square kilometres.

--BERNAMA

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