

16 MAY 2004
UiTM-Everest
TWO UiTM STUDENTS REACH THE PEAK OF EVEREST

SHAH ALAM, May 16 (Bernama) -- Two Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) students were on top of the world today, having reached the peak of Everest at 10.50am Malaysian time.

Ahmad Reduan Rozali and Muhammad Muqharabbin Mokhtaruddin, both 22, were expected to descend the 8,848-metre mountain and arrive at the base camp on May 23, said UiTM Vice Chancellor Datuk Seri Prof Ibrahim Abu Shah when contacted here.

"Alhamdulillah, they are safe. Initially, I was worried about what would happen to them," he said.

The elated Prof Ibrahim said UiTM planned to hold a special welcoming ceremony when the two national mountaineers returned to Malaysia.

Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would be invited to the ceremony, he added.

Abdullah, in congratulating the two students, said: "Alhamdulillah. That is excellence among the few. Not everyone can reach the top of the Himalayas."

He prayed for the safe return of the duo.

Ahmad Reduan and Muhammad Muqharabbin are part of the "Everest, For the Country 2004" expedition led by mountaineering trainer, Mohd Fauzan Hassan.

Before going to Everest, the two diploma students trained in Wanaka, New Zealand from July 30 to Aug 20 last year.

In PUTRAJAYA, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was proud with the success of the two students and hoped it would serve as an encouragement to others.

In congratulating them, he said: "I believe this success will instil confidence in all youths to do the same.

"InsyaAllah, there are many more challenges that must be tried, not necessarily up the mountain, like swimming or go to the South Pole," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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