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10,000 participants expected as preparations for bridge run go into full

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. - Preparations for the Johor-Singapore Second Link Bridge Run on Sunday are in full swing, with the number of participants fast reaching the 10,000 mark.

The figure includes more than 1,500 runners from Singapore and scores of others from districts outside Johor Baru and the rest of the country.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Singapore Minister of State for Education, Community Development and Sports Chan Soo Sen will jointly flag off the run at the Tanjung Kupang Toll Plaza in Gelang Patah at 6am.

The run, which is now into its fourth year, is jointly organised by the Johor State Government, The New Straits Times, Johor Tourism Action Council, Singapore Sports Council and Malaysian Highway Authority.

Also involved are Linkedua (M) Bhd, Johor Sports Council, Johor Amateur Athletic Association, Royal Malaysian Customs, the Immigration Department and Tourism Malaysia.

The event, which includes a 21km half-marathon and a 10km run featuring seven categories, requires participants to run from Tanjung Kupang to the Singapore boundary on the Second Link Bridge, before turning back to the starting point.

A total of RM31,500 in prize money will be given out to the first 10 winners in each category. In addition, all runners will also be given promotional items courtesy of corporate sponsors and a chance to win attractive prizes in a lucky draw.

The main sponsors of the event are the Ranhill Group, Apex Communications Group and Digi Telecommunications.

Other sponsors are JKing (a sports apparel company), Nestle (Milo), California Churros, ProLink Development, Alpine Mineral Water, Kee Fatt Industries, Seasons Confectionary and Bakery, M Suites Hotel Apartments and Ah Kow Motor.

Meanwhile, New Straits Times organising secretariat chairman, Saaid Ahmad, said today outstation participants can collect their official T-shirts and run tag numbers from the Second Link Bridge Run booth at the Plaza Angsana Shopping Complex in Tampoi here on Saturday.

The booth will be open from 10am to 10pm.

"We have also made special arrangements to enable people who have yet to sign up to register for the run at the booth," Saaid added.

He said the New Straits Times booth at the venue in Tanjung Kupang would also give out free caps to participants and visitors on Sunday.

"To qualify, they have to produce five mastheads of the New Straits Times. We will give out 500 of these special caps," he said.

Visitors and participants also stand to win attractive prizes, including hampers, from fun and games stalls at the New Straits Times booth.

The Malay Mail will also have a booth to give people the chance to pen their personal dedications and tributes to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad, who will retire at the end of this month.

The messages will be published in The Malay Mail.