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`Raja Gigi' set for world record

V. Josephine

COME tomorrow, Malaysians will witness yet another record-breaking feat by V. Rathakrishnan, who is better known as Raja Gigi (Teeth King).

The 37-year-old strongman will pull two KTM Berhad Komuter trains, weighing 260 tonnes, for a minimum distance of 3.2 metres by just using his teeth at the KTMB Building in Kuala Lumpur.

The feat is expected to be witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The event is in line with the PM's vision of inculcating the Malaysia Boleh spirit in aspiring and dedicated Malaysians who have great ambitions of meeting challenges and excelling in their own field.

Organised by YZ Alliance Group Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned Bumiputera company with a wide range of businesses ranging from project management to construction, engineering and biotechnology, the incredible feat, if successful, will be Malaysia's entry into the Guinness Book of World Records.

At a Press conference held at the KTMB building on Monday, YZ Alliance Group deputy executive chairman Mohd Zamri Mohammad said the event was organised to promote and encourage the Malaysia Boleh spirit.

He said it was also to define and demonstrate unity in support of a good cause as well as inspire Malaysians to strive for excellence in any chosen area.

Rathakrishnan did not come by the Raja Gigi title easily. He did it through a strict 20-year regime of discipline, motivation, determination and intensive training.

For a man who stands at just 168cm and weighs 82kg, he has shocked many with his incredible feats of moving unbelievably heavy objects with his teeth.

On his strength, Rathakrishnan has plenty of secret remedies and successes to share.

He believes in "staying focused always" and "to believe in your dreams". His general training methods include traditional yoga, gym workouts, jogging and long-distance brisk walking covering distances of between 15km and 20km a day.

For tomorrow's challenge, Rathakrishnan has been training at the KTMB station three days a week, pulling the trains from 3pm to 5pm.

He is confident that he will be able to pull the two trains and beat the current world record for such a feat held by Belgian Walter Arfeuille, whose record stands at 200.8 tonnes.