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Grandpa's solo kayak venture a tribute to Dr Mahathir

PORT DICKSON, Wed. - With a steely determination that would put others younger than him to shame, a 52-year-old grandfather is braving the waves and the open sea as a tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ku Fozi Ku Husain's solo kayak expedition along the west coast of the peninsula from Tanjung Piai, in Johor, to Kuala Perlis is a retirement gift for Dr Mahathir.

"There is nothing I can give to our Prime Minister, but I can use my abilities in the spirit of Malaysia Boleh, which he always emphasises," Ku Fozi said.

He also hopes to create a record with the expedition.

Ku Fozi, a painter with 10 children, set off on the next leg of his expedition from Pantai Saujana in Sirusa here today.

He said the most challenging part of his solo expedition to date was wrestling with waves as high as two metres near Tanjung Laboh, Muar.

Ku Fozi had to use all his strength and wits to ensure that his kayak did not overturn.

Among those present to see him off today were Johor assemblyman Datuk Darus Salim Bulin and Pasis Panjang assemblyman Datuk Sainy Edris.

Ku Fozi, who lives in Johor, Tampin, set off from Tanjung Piai on Oct 1 and hopes to conclude the expedition in 22 days, to symbolise Dr Mahathir's 22 years in office.

He, originally, planned to start the expedition in Kota Baru, but had to move it to Tanjung Piai when the Marine Department did not give its consent due to bad weather.

Ku Fozi has completed 185 kilometres of the 850km journey, from Tanjung Piai to Pontian Besar - kayaking through Sungai Lurus, Senggarang, Batu Pahat, Semerah, Muar, Anjung Batu, Umbai, Tanjung Bidara and stopping at Tanjung Agas yesterday.

He is on his way to Bagan Lalang in Selangor.