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Jet-ski riders complete 2,411km trip

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KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Four jet-ski riders scooted their way into the Malaysia Book of Records after successfully completing a gruelling 2,411.4-kilometre journey from Langkawi to here in 18 days.

The riders - Simon Low, Alex Chai (both 35), Rosli Bagat and Nazar Omar (both 38) - arrived at the Sutera Harbour Resorts Marina here at 3.20pm to the beat of kompangs and hugs of family and friends.

On hand to welcome them were Sabah Tourism Board chairman Datuk Tengku Zainal Adlin, Sutera Harbour Resorts chief executive officer Datuk Edward Ong and Sabah Tourist Association chairman Clement Lee.

To cap their commendable feat, the four are the first to successfully cross the South China Sea on jet skis from Johor to Kuching, Sarawak.

"The significance of the crossing between Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak is in itself a record on its own, for it has never been done before on a personal water craft," said team manager Bruce Chai.

The team faced waves of up to three metres high, riding for up to 10 hours a day and enduring the scorching heat of the sun.

The team set out from Langkawi on June 8 with the objective of not only etching a record into the Malaysia Book of Records, but also to raise funds in aid of nine centres for disabled children in the country.

"But most of all, we would like to dedicate this achievement to our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as our gift to him before he steps down from office," Chai said.

Team leader Alex Chai said the toughest journey was when crossing the South China Sea from Johor to Kuching as they had to encounter bad weather.

He added that their next project was to travel on jet-skis around the island of Borneo.