

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 16/2/2010

Dr Mahathir wants Langkawi in cycling race again

LANGKAWI: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is saddened that Langkawi is no longer featured as part of the world prestigious Le Tour De Langkawi cycling race.

The former prime minister, who mooted the idea for the race in 1996, said it was imperative that Langkawi be listed again as one of many stages for the race.

"I am sad and disagree with the organisers for excluding Langkawi. They must seriously consider including Langkawi again as part of the race," he said after launching *My Ferry 2*, a passenger ferry in Kuah here, on Sunday.

Dr Mahathir said Langkawi was synonymous with the race and it was well-known abroad among sportsmen and tourists.

"We need to include Langkawi again since this is a major promotional effort to maintain Langkawi's attractiveness among foreign visitors."

As part of promoting Langkawi and putting the country on the world tourist map, Dr Mahathir said an international mountain biking race would be held here in June.

He said the race, which offered a prize money of RM500,000, would be held for two days, on June 26 and 27.

While not naming the organiser, he said the race comprised two categories: a 55km cross-country cycling and a 120km marathon.

The Le Tour De Langkawi, which enters its 15th edition this year, will be held for eight days from March 1.

Some 120 participants from 20 countries will take part in the 1,001.8km race, which has seven stages. They are Kola Baru-Kuala Berang, Kuala Terengganu-Chukai, Pekan-Mersing, Mersing-Parit Sulong, Muar-Port Dickson, Putrajaya-Genting Highlands and Kuala Kubu Baru-Dataran Merdeka.



The *My Ferry 2* passenger ferry that was launched in Kuah, Langkawi, on Sunday.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the captain's seat of *My ferry 2* after its launch. With him are Captain Mohd Elvin Teng (right) and JMV Ferry Service Sdn Bhd managing director Ku Azhar Ku Abdul Razak (second from right).