

Rosmah: Suwaibah an Inspiration to Malaysian Woman

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By Linda Khoo Hui Li

VENICE, June 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor hoped the success of Malaysian female solo runner, Suwaibah Muhammad Nasir in completing the Silk Route Run-Across Reverse of Marco Polo (Aroma) would inspire more Malaysian women to achieve greater success.

She noted that the 41-year-old former Royal Malaysian Air Force officer had survived extreme challenges and hindrances to overcome the hurdles with sheer physical and mental strength.

Rosmah who is also the patron of the Silk Route Run-Aroma said Suwaibah's accomplishment reflected the spirit of "Malaysia Boleh", a display of the courage and determination by which Malaysian women continue to achieve success in many fields and activities.

"Suwaibah represents a true independent and inspiring Malaysian woman. She has a string of impressive achievements to her name and currently has 10 records in the Malaysian Book of Records. She is well on her way to create another record in the Guinness World Book of Records as the first Malaysian woman to run solo across the historic trade route.

"This is no ordinary feat and one that we as Malaysians should be proud of," she said after welcoming Suwaibah at the finishing line at Riva Sette De Marite here at 3.55 pm local time (9.55 pm Malaysia time) today.

Suwaibah started the Aroma run in Beijing on March 30, covering four continents and 12 countries including China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy totaling 3,333 kilometres. She ran 50 km a day on the old Silk Road.

Themed "One World One Hope", Suwaibah's run was aimed at promoting world peace in the countries she traversed and to the people of different religion, race and culture.

Rosmah said the Silk Route Run-Aroma by Suwaibah coincided with the 40th

anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations on May 31 this year.

"It is heartening to know that Suwaibah's mission has proven to be fruitful as she received tremendous response from the countries concerned.

"The warm reception, friendship and motivation which she received in China were replicated in all the countries that she went through. In fact, Suwaibah was showered with overwhelming support and encouragement from the locals throughout the Silk route," she said.

Rosmah who is also patron of the National Athletes Welfare Foundation congratulated Suwaibah for her outstanding achievement in completing the solo run.

"I am proud that the name of a Malaysian woman will be recorded and become a part of this Silk Route history," she said.

Meanwhile, Suwaibah described her journey as "long and stressful", and thanked Rosmah and well wishers for helping and supporting her mission.

"I am glad to be here today, after having been to the toughest lands and survived the extreme challenges especially the climate or the weather in every country. From this wonderful journey I have learned tremendous lessons in life," she said.

Suwaibah also presented a special coffee table book titled, "Nafasku Mencari Damaimu" (My breath seeks Your Peace) to Rosmah. The book compiled photographs of her journey along the Silk Route Run-Aroma.

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