

Record participation



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KOTA KINABALU: The 27th annual Borneo Safari International Off Road Challenge roars off on Oct 29 to Nov 5.

Apart from the tourism industry, villagers living along the route also benefit from the event.

Its organising chairman, Faez Nordin said that the villagers have the opportunity to sell their produce such as chickens, vegetables and other raw food to the hundreds of four-wheel-drive enthusiasts who camp along the route throughout the eight-day expedition.

"Four hundred vehicles

have registered at the moment as compared to 398 vehicles last year, and more are expected to register before the deadline next month.

"Besides buying their products, we also conduct charity programmes such as providing medical and dental examinations to the villagers by UMS Faculty of Medical and

Health Science and the Health Ministry who are part of the expedition.

"For this year's Borneo Safari, our medical team comprises 40 doctors and nurses, and we have allocated funds for them to purchase medicines for the villagers.

"We will also be distributing 100 packets of rice to the

villagers and providing haircut service as well as clothing to the children," he told reporters at the sponsorship agreement signing ceremony between UMW Grant International Sdn Bhd and the Sabah Four Wheel Drive Association (SFWDA) at a hotel here yesterday.

According to Faez who is

also SFWDA president, the expedition route will be from Kota Kinabalu-Papar-Kimanis traversing the Crocker Range.

"This will definitely be challenging for the participants in terms of patience but at the same time, this will promote camaraderie among them," he said.

Apart from vehicles from the Peninsula and Sarawak, there is also a big international participation including from Japan, Indonesia, United Kingdom, France, Brunei, Hong Kong and China.

"The biggest foreign participation is from Brunei with 40 vehicles, followed by Indonesia with 12 vehicles," he added.

On the sponsorship agreement with UMW Grant, Faez said that the company is sponsoring RM100,000 and is the official supplier of automotive lubricant for the event.

According to the company's Marketing Services Manager, Nor Idura Ali Badarudin, the automotive lubricant manufacturer is interested in collaborating with Borneo Safari as it is a prestigious off-road challenge in South East Asia.

The Borneo Safari International Off Road Challenge is an annual event held since 1991, and this year's expedition is the 27th.

Those interested may register through the Borneo Safari Facebook Page or website at www.borneosafari.com.my

GEARED UP ... Faez (5th right), Nor Idura (5th left), and sponsor representatives at the signing ceremony.