

Tough challenges await participants

250 hardcore runners will have to cross hilly terrain, rivers and forest during run

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KUANTAN: Some 250 hardcore runners will be taking part in the Sultan Ahmad Shah Tioman International Eco Challenge (Sastiec) 2017 to be held from May 9 to May 13.

State Tourism and Culture Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin said the challenges awaiting the participants along the 50km distance race included hilly and mountainous tracks, rivers, beaches and forested areas.

Mohd Sharkar said the event begins at Dataran Tjong in Pulau Tioman and the participants will have the opportunity to see the flora and fauna on the island dur-

ing the run.

"Last year, the distance was 30km but for this year's run, it is an additional 20km. We are sure participants who are hardcore runners will find it more interesting and challenging," Mohd Sharkar said at a press conference here recently.

Also present were Sastiec chairman Tengku Datuk Seri Kamarulzaman Sultan Abu Bakar, programme director Lt Kol Datuk Thong Kok Sing, state Youth and Sports Committee chairman Datuk Mohd Johari Hussain, Pahang Tourism general manager Datuk Ishak Mokhtar and Tioman Development Authority officer Nor Zaihan Othman.

Mohd Sharkar said Sultan of Pahang Sultan Ahmad Shah is scheduled to give

away prizes to the winners of the event.

He said the Sastiec challenge, which is an annual event held since 2008, was one of the tourism products of the state.

"There are many other tourism products from the events held in Pulau Tioman and Sastiec too has brought a large number of tourists to the island known as the 10th most beautiful island in the world.

"In conjunction with Visit Pahang 2017, it is hoped that this event will contribute to the increasing number of tourists to Pahang as we have targeted an arrival of 15 million tourists," he said.

Mohd Sharkar said there would also be an international paintball competition in Kampung Juara on the island and some 1,000 paintballers were expected to take part.