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KAJANG

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TURN those weekend bicycle rides into a night of thrills and excitement when you take part in the RHB Shimano Highway Ride @ Lekas 2018.

The much-anticipated cycling event returns for its fifth edition on Aug 18 with an even longer route to fuel the excitement of participants.

The 105km race is now 15km longer, making it 120km in the competitive ride category.

Both the 120km and 78km routes will see cyclists making two climbs with more than 5% gradient.

The cycling event will start and end at the Kajang Selatan toll plaza, Lebuhraya Kajang Seremban E21 (Lekas Highway).

It is expected to attract 4,000 people of all ages from 16 countries and about 1,350 have registered so far.

The race is a collaboration between RHB Banking Group, bicycle component manufacturer Shimano and Lebuhraya Kajang-Seremban Sdn Bhd – a member of IJM Corporation Bhd's toll division.

RHB group managing director Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli said they hoped to encourage more cyclists to use this platform to grow competitively and have fun at the same time in a safe and controlled environment.

"Lekas is an experience not to be missed as it is the only night race in Malaysia. The entire highway is closed to the public and lit up just for you.

"The atmosphere is unique, the terrain challenging and even scary at times, as you whizz along the empty highway.

"We hope to attract more youths

Night bicycle race returns for fifth year



(Back row from left) Lekas chief operating officer Wan Salwani Wan Yusoff, Soam, Khairussaleh and Koh together with the members of the Terengganu Cycling Team (TSG) and young riders from the Triathlon TRI-Amateur Club at the launch of RHB Shimano Highway Ride@Lekas 2018.

to engage in both leisure and competitive cycling to achieve a wholesome lifestyle with a healthy body, mind and soul," he said during the launch at IJM ICE Gallery, Pantai Sentral Park in Kuala Lumpur.

The Shimano Highway Challenge, which first took place in 2013, aims to give participants a unique and complete cycling experience on a highway.

Shimano deputy director Eugene Koh said: "We want participants to have a stress-free and enjoyable experience by having medical staff and facilities at hand

in case of emergencies."

Venue sponsor IJM Corporation Bhd's chief executive officer and managing director Datuk Soam Heng Choon stressed that cyclists' safety was their top priority.

"We are investing about RM5mil to provide a safe, smooth and comfortable journey for motorists. A total of RM3.8mil will go towards upgrading our current interchange street lighting to LED lighting while RM1.2mil is for upgrading our highway pavement," he said.

As co-organiser, Lekas is working closely with authorities such as

the Works Ministry, the police and Malaysia Highway Authority for a total road closure.

"We are expecting a loss of approximately 55,000 vehicles in traffic volume, equivalent to about RM180,000 in toll revenue in order to run this event," Soam added.

Also present at the launch was GoSportz race director Albert Leong who briefed the media and guests on the event.

The Terengganu Cycling Team (TSG) was appointed as the first ambassador of the RHB Shimano Highway Ride @ Lekas 2018.

Koh said the team's ambassadors could inspire and groom young ones, looking at the win in the Tour de Langkawi 2018 and participation in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games by two of its members.

Categories for the 120km route are the "Open" (men/women aged 22 years and above), "Veteran" (men aged 45 years and above) and the "Corporate/Open Team" (men/women aged 22 years and above).

Fees are RM170 (for individual registration, RM150 for early birds by May 6) or RM2,000 per corporate/open team.

Categories for the 78km ride are the "Open" (men/women aged 22 years and above), "Veteran" (men aged 45 years and above), and the "Young Adults" (boys/girls between ages 17 and 21). Fees are RM160 (RM140 for early birds by May 6).

IJM Land Bhd, a member of the IJM Group, continues to sponsor 100 participants under the Young Adults category for the fifth consecutive year.

The Fun Ride has three categories: 17km VIP (by invitation only), 17km Teens (ages 13 to 16) and 12km Children (ages 10 to 12).

The categories for teens and children are fully sponsored by IJM, however, a RM20 refundable deposit per participant is required upon registration.

On Aug 18, road closure and traffic management measures will start from 5pm until 3am the next day.

Registration will close on June 13, or upon reaching 4,000 participants, whichever comes first.

Visit www.lekashighwayride.my for details and registration.