Labuan shine at LISC kayak marathon

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LABUAN: Seasoned paddlers from the Labuan Canoe Association braved punishing heat wave and dangerous waves and shone at the marathon kayak race of circumnavigating the island (52.5 km) by hitting the shores first during the Labuan International Sea Challenge 2024.

In the men's doubles category, the Labuan pair of Nadzmar Sukarno/Shahdan Sukarno clocked 05:46:10 to stay ahead of the others and paddled home RM4,800.

The runners-up were Burhanuddin Halim/Hendry Zul (Sabah & DBKL) followed by Nik Afiq Nik Mazali/Muhammad Azri Iskandar Muhammad Azrul (Kanu Putra Jaya).

In the mixed doubles category, Labuan repeated its feat with Nedzfar Sukarno/Jiana Tosawi after clocking 06:07:45 and collecting RM4,800. The runners-up were Mohammad Fahmi Izwan Shahril/Nur Atasha Nabila Saring (Politeknik Msia) followed by Ichlas Muazzam Sazali/Eliana Zaryana Tosawi.

Labuan's clean sweep was, however, denied when in the men's singles event Mohd Azlan Ibrahim from DBKL clocked an impressive 05:59:17 to take the top honour and collect RM2,800. Khairul Naim Zainal (Putra Jaya) was the runner-up followed by Ahmad Azfaruddin Lukman (Team MOF).

Participants in the doubles category.

About 100 kayakers from Peninsula, Brunei, Sabah and here took part in the gruelling race which was flagged off at the Labuan Sea Sports Complex by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

Labuan Canoe Association president Yunos Waiden said that the kayak race had been one of the hallmark events of LISC since it inception in1997 and he was thankful to the Labuan Corporation for its continued support.

He said this year's competition was important as it served as training opportunity for Sukma and SEA Games.

Map showing the race route.