

Victorley, Ritchie are nation's first underwater postmen at Layang-layang

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VICTORLEY...proud to be an underwater postman.

PULAU LAYANG-LAYANG: Sabahans, Victorley Marden and Ritchie Lester Lee have been selected as the first two underwater postmen to undertake letters posted at the deepest post box in the country at a depth of 40 metres below sea level.

Victorley, 25, and Ritchie, 35, said they were honoured with the trust given and would strive to carry out the task to the best of their ability.

Ritchie, a diving centre manager on the island has more than 10 years of diving experience and has held a diving license since 2001, while Victorley a dive master, earned his diving license in 2011.

This local duo from Kota Belud would ensure that postcards sent through the the underwater mail box would be safely delivered to recipients in making this joint Pos Malaysia-MCMC programme a success.

They were met Friday after Pos Malaysia Berhad (Pos Malaysia) launched its underwater post box at Layang-Layang, thereby making a name in the Malaysia Book of Records as

The underwater post box had been on the seabed of Pulau Layang-Layang, which is located 300 kilometres from Sabah coast since July 25.

Pos Malaysia's acting chief executive officer, Azlan Shahrim said the two postmen would be assigned to collect the waterproof postcards from the underwater post box.

Avillion Layang-Layang Resort has been appointed as the postal agents on the island, he added.

Deputy Minister of Communications and Multimedia Datuk Jailani Johari said the location of the post box has made it the deepest in the world beating the one in Susami, Wakayama, Japan which is only 10 metres deep and currently holding the Guinness World Records.

"This means that we have to make an application to the Guinness World Records to earn world recognition for our post box in Pulau Layang-Layang which is 40 metres deep.

"This underwater post box is our second project, after the first was launched in Mount Kinabalu as the highest altitude post box in Malaysia and this will definitely be a new tourism product and an attraction to the diving community in the country," he told Bernama and RTM after launching the underwater post box here.

Jailani said the underwater post box allows divers at Pulau Layang-Layang to share their experience with family and friends via waterproof postcards stamped with a special postmark and logo 'Malaysia Book of Records'.

"The postcards from Pulau Layang-Layang can also be kept as a souvenir," he said, adding that the postcard makes an interesting collection to promote the beauty of Pulau Layang-Layang.

At the event Jailani also launched a special 88005 zip code for Pulau Layang-Layang for the convenience of tourists and people living on the island.

Also present at the launch were Commander of Naval Region 2, Royal Malaysian Navy, Rear Admiral Datuk Khairul Anuar Yahya, Chairman of Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Datuk Halim Shafie and Secretary of Maritime Sovereignty Division, Shakib Ahmad Shakir.