

NEW SUNDAY TIMES

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# CARS BIKES TRUCKS

12-page Truck  
and Transport  
Guide inside



ME & MY MOTOR DIANA RUSDI

V12

▶ 4x4

# Extreme test for the Hilux

By Luis J.A. Wee

**T**HE Toyota Hilux will be making its debut entry into the Rainforest Challenge (RFC) as official support cars for the event.

To prepare the vehicles for the gruelling challenge ahead, they were sent to 4WD Equipment Sdn Bhd in Shah Alam, a leading 4x4 specialist shop and authorised distributor for Warn and ARB.

The products fitted were chosen to improve the functionality and practicality of the Toyota Hilux.

**Winch:** The WARN 9.5 XP was chosen for its ultimate combination of durability and performance. It has 9,500 lb of pulling strength, the longest duty cycle and the fastest line speed of any under load. The 9.5 XP features a high output parallel Series-Wound motor, a three-stage planetary gear train and a continuous duty control pack which can handle the most difficult pull. Added to the full face contact drum seals, motor and end housing gaskets that deliver extreme duty water resistance, this will be the ultimate recovery equipment for the Hilux.

**Suspensions:** Old Man Emu (OME) medium duty shocks and suspensions were used in the upgrading for optimum



The upgraded Toyota Hilux for the RFC scout team.

ride performance including OME strut, shock, coil spring as well as OME Dakar leaf springs and bush.

**Bull bar:** ARB deluxe winch bar and Sa-

fari snorkel. Rear bumper upgraded also with side step, side rail and a pair of IPF spotlights.

The upgraded Hilux also came com-

plete with Hi-lift jacks deluxe model, Warn winching kit, ARB recovery strap, battery isolator and N70Z additional battery with an extra jerry can.



The Hilux being fitted with the MT 117 Extreme tyre.

For water protection, the ECU was sprayed with silicon spray. For traction, the Silverstone MT 117 Extreme (31x10.5R15) was fitted.

# Bracing for the monsoon

IF the November wet spells continue, another flooding nightmare can be expected in both Kelantan and Terengganu, just in time for the Rainforest Challenge (RFC).

Based on the Meteorological Services Department weather forecast, the East Coast can expect another big flood this year.

Both Terengganu and Kelantan are now bracing for the worst and the rain is expected to last till early January.

How will this year's adventurers cope with the onslaught of another wet weather ahead?

For one, the hardware is fully prepared, judging from the impressive line-up so far.

With that in mind, everyone's coming well prepared to face the worst.

"We are prepared for the rain as we have heard so many stories already. What-



## The Russian off-road machines are set to battle it out in Terengganu.

ever it is, we shall take one day at a time," said Andrey Kurdakov, the team leader from Vladivostok (Russian Far East).

His team mates Yuri Ignatenko, Andrey Smolyaninov and Valeri Porkoshev agreed that coping with the high humidity will

be a challenge itself. Their Toyota Landcruiser and Nissan Safari are already in Port Kelang.

The Thais, Indonesians and Sri Lankans will not have any problem with humidity but along with the Russians, they will be

first time entry.

"A 10-day event is unlike any other that we have ever faced before," said Sean Hamid and Silva Rushiran, who will be driving their upgraded Toyota LandCruiser.

As for the support crew of RFC this year, both new and senior marshals will be joining forces for the first time in 4x4s and motor-cross motorbikes.

Comprising a mini "army" of 48 members, both foreign and locals, they will be divided into three groups to face the many challenges.

Among the newly acquired arsenal for the scout team will be the upgraded fully "armed" Toyota Hilux. Fitted with ARB bull bars, WARN winches 9.5XP, snorkels, rear bumpers, side steps, side rails, IPF spotlights and OME suspensions among others, these will be seen in action for the first time in the RFC.

Taking the lead roles with the scouts

driving them, these Hilux will be at the forefront of the action at the Predator, Hill of No Return, Terminator and Twilight Zone.

The full action will be shot on Olympus SW shockproof and waterproof cameras which will be used extensively in the event by both the media and the scout team.

The vehicle scrutineering will be carried out at the Equatorial Hotel car park in Kuala Lumpur from Dec 1 to 3. Catch these 4x4 warriors and their machines before they depart for Chukai.

You can also watch them in action during the Prologue Special Stages on Dec 5 and 6 in Chukai and Awana Kijal, Kemaman.

For more information, call the RFC Secretariat at 03-2163 5908/6909 or 012-211 7080, e-mail [jawee@rainforest-challenge.com](mailto:jawee@rainforest-challenge.com) or [luiswee@yahoo.com](mailto:luiswee@yahoo.com) or log on to [www.rainforest-challenge.com](http://www.rainforest-challenge.com)