

Freezing winds mean SA Everest attempt is no breeze

Three members of the latest South African team trying to scale Mount Everest expect to make their first attempt at the difficult climb this weekend, according to Warwick Stevens, managing director of ME Stores, which is sponsoring the expedition.

However, Alex Harris, Sean Disney and Anton Erasmus will need low winds for the next three

days to realise their dream because they had been "ferocious" recently and temperatures had dropped to minus 50deg C, Stevens said.

If the climbers could not make their difficult climb this weekend, they would try again because they had given themselves until October 25 to make the 8 848m summit.

For every attempt they made they would need three consecutive days of low winds, added Stevens.

The other two climbers, Mark Campbell and Robin Walshaw, were not planning to climb to the summit.

Their hope was to realise their personal goal by climbing to the 8 000m mark, said Stevens.

By yesterday, after spending four days resting at base camp at 5 700m, the team had returned to the advanced base camp at 6 500m.

Stevens said that all other expeditions attempting the summit had decided to abandon the mountain for the meantime because of the adverse weather. — Staff Reporter.

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