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MAHATHIR PROMISES REWARD FOR MALAYSIAN SHUTTLERS

M a h a t h i r - r e w a r d

IPOH, May 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia's shuttlers would be rewarded should they win the prestigious Thomas Cup, last capture by the country 25 years ago.

+We will reward them adequately;+ he told a press conference after chairing the State UMNO Liaison committee meeting at a leading hotel here.

He did not say what they would receive except that it would be decided by the government later.

The last time Malaysia won the cup was in 1967. Malaysia qualified for the finals in 1976, 1988 and 1990 but ended up runners-up all three times.

Malaysia takes on England in the first tie at Stadium Negara today. --  
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Youth and Sports Minister Senator Annuar Musa said the shuttlers are in for a pleasant surprise if they win as the government would give them additional rewards.

Dr. Mahathir informed him that the government would reward them for their victory, he added.

The reward would be in addition to the benefits they would receive under his ministry's incentive scheme for the country's badminton players, he said.

Under the incentive scheme, for world class events like the Thomas Cup, the ministry would offer \$80,000 for team events to be shared evenly by the players, he added. -- Bernama

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