

Thomas Cuppers set for life

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KUALA LUMPUR: Our Thomas Cup heroes will be rewarded with "lasting incomes" from the Government in the form of business opportunities, including possibly licences.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the reward would depend on individual players and the Government would consult them.

"I cannot say now what will be the exact reward but what the Government is empowered to do, we will reward," he said at a get-together at Seri Perdana for the badminton champions who beat arch-rivals Indonesia last month.

Dr Mahathir said the whole nation was proud that the Thomas Cup had returned after 25 years.

"Malaysia must be respected not only in industrial development but also in sports so we can stand tall with other people," he added.

However, he told the players not to rest on their laurels as they must play equally well at the Barcelona Olympics.

"The whole country is looking up to you. They think of you as their heroes today. They must continue to share that glory," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was cruising in the Mediterranean near Greece when he was told of Malaysia's victory on May 16.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah presented the squad with a personal gift of a gold bracelet each.

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