

PM tells Malaysian athletes to uphold the country's image

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BANGI: The Malaysian athletes have been told to preserve the country's good image during the Singapore SEA Games.

In a flag handing ceremony here yesterday, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the athletes to preserve Malaysia's good name during the Games.

"Although it is only sports that they are taking part in they have to keep in mind the good name of the country.

"Winning is important and I hope the athletes to the SEA Games will be victorious," he said before handing over the Malaysian flag to chef-de-mission Datuk Khalid Yunos.

Dr Mahathir also gave on behalf of the government a grant of RM500,000 to finance the Malaysian contingent to the SEA Games.

He also met with the other official sponsors of the Malaysian contingent

namely Mizzuno, Coca Cola, High Desert, Milo and Bata.

At the ceremony Milo managing director Fritz van Djick also handed over the signatures of more than 1.2 million fans collected from the "Malaysia Boleh" campaign.

Among the signatories were the King, Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, Datuk Annuar Musa and the public.

Dr Mahathir later handed over the signature scroll to the Malaysian contingent leader Sabiamad Ahad.

The first batch of the Malaysian athletes leave for Singapore tomorrow by train in the morning.

Two more batches leave later in the afternoon while the hockey team is due to leave the following day.

The final batch of athletes consisting of the silat, body building and karate teams leave on June 14.

The Games open on June 12.