

# Dr Mahathir: Skill competition has set very high standards

**By Vijayan Menon and Azeman Said**

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the annual National Skill Competition had set for itself very high standards.

He said this was why there were no first prize winners for certain categories.

"I think if there are no winners for certain categories, then this is good because it only shows that we maintain very high standards.

"If we simply reduce the

standard just to have more champions, then it will not augur well (for the country) and we will be the ultimate losers.

"On the whole, I am satisfied with the performance of the participants in this competition," he told reporters after presenting the Golden Hand Awards to winners of the Sixth National Skill Competition.

"As I have always said, if a task is done repeatedly, we can become more efficient at it."

There was more specialisation in the various categories of the competition this year compared with the previous years, he said, adding

the number of participants had also increased.

The skill competition, a brain-child of the Prime Minister, was first held in 1990. Dr Mahathir is its patron.

The competition's objectives include selecting and recognising skilled workers as well as encouraging youths to become skilled artisans especially in the industrial sector.

It is also aimed at promoting awareness among the people of the importance of skills in the country's development.

The theme of this year's competition was "Upgrade your skills to ensure suc-

cess".

The winner of the team category for automobile mechanics was Tan Chong & Sons Motor Co Sdn Bhd. It received a Golden Hand Award, gold medal and RM8,000.

The winner of the open category for plumbing was Chin Jun Fah. He walked away with a Golden Hand Award, gold medal and RM8,000.

Prizes were also given to winners of the youth category which saw contests in 21 types of skills.

Tan Chong Motor team

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# Tiler wins top prize at third try

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manager, Francis Chan, 47, said the victory was a group effort and each of the team members was proud to have contributed towards its success.

"The victory is sweet because we failed to win anything last year.

"Competitors of this category are required to dismantle and then re-assemble various parts of a car in the shortest possible time," said Chan, who is also senior manager of the company.

The other members of the team — Koay Heng Chai, 27, Shamugan Ramaiah, 27, and Nik Mohd Nasir — were overjoyed at the success.

Shamugan said he and his teammates were bent on winning a prize to make up for their dismal performance last year.

Nik Mohd Nasir said he had yet to decide what to do with his share of the prize money. "I think I'll go out to  *makan*  first before planning what to do with the money. I'll probably save it."

Chow Khim Tuck, who competed for the third time in the open category for tiling was ecstatic when he was announced the winner.

"I was confident of winning this year around as I have gained experience and learnt from my past mistakes," he said.