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Mahathir-Horses

FUND EQUESTRIAN SPORTS SO THAT THE POOR TOO MAY RIDE

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on certain organisations to fund equestrian sport to the less fortunate an opportunity to take part in the sport.

Equestrian sport needed a high expenditure and not many people could participate in it, he said when opening the Johor Corporation Merdeka Equestrian Carnival at the Pasir Gudang in-door stadium, here.

Dr Mahathir said that if they had the talent in the sport, they could turn professional.

He said Malaysians who are of medium build should choose sports suitable for them and this included horse-riding.

"If we work very hard, we may become champions. If we really concentrate on equestrian sport, we may even get to compete in the Olympics in Sydney," he said.

The prime minister hoped that Malaysians would develop an interest in equestrian sport.

In jest he said: "In the track event our people have no chance whatsoever. We have now admitted defeat to the Africans because only they can win in the track event.

"Maybe in future we can give citizenship to the Kenyans to represent Malaysia in the track event. We see that Europe and America have already done so."

On the championship, he said he was proud of the effort by the organisers, the Equestrian Association of Malaysia (EAM) and Kulim (Malaysia) Bhd, a subsidiary of the Johor Corporation, which had attracted foreign entries.

Over 100 local and foreign participants are taking part in the four-day carnival which started on Thursday. It carries a cash prize of RM80,000 and trophies.

Among those taking part are Australia, India, New Zealand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, South Korea Selatan, Singapore, Canada dan Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

MKO JK