

10 MAR 1996

Mahathir-Athlete

PM WANTS MALAYSIAN ATHLETE TO BE MORE DISCIPLINED

LANGKAWI, March 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on all Malaysian athletes to be more disciplined in their training and daily activities.

He said only by being more disciplined, Malaysian sportsmen would be able to create an impact at the international level.

"We have seen a very good example during the 10-day Le Tour de Langkawi '96 (TDL '96) cycling race where the foreign cyclists have shown what good discipline was all about,"

"They are very disciplined racers and have dedicated their lives to the sport. Anywhere they go, you will see that they are always with their bicycles," he said at a dinner hosted by the Kedah State Government in conjunction with the TDL '96.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysian athletes, especially the cyclists, should emulate the attitude of their foreign rivals for their own good.

"This is something that Malaysian athletes should learn about, that is to give their utmost in whatever event they are involved in," he said.

The Prime Minister said he was a bit disappointed with the level of discipline and dedication shown by some of the Malaysian sportsmen especially when they were competing overseas.

"When we sent them to compete overseas, they would complain of loneliness as the wife is not around and when the wife is around they would say that they should also be allowed to go sight-seeing," he said.

On Malaysia's performance in the inaugural event, Dr Mahathir said the locals should learn to race more like a team than as individuals.

He also said it was obvious that the Malaysian teams were lacking in tactics and urged them to learn from the rivals.

"We could learn from the Australians and I believe that if we are disciplined and dedicated enough and together with the right tactics, we could come out with better results and even beat them," he said.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir also singled out M.Kumaresen and Nor Effendy Rosli and asked both cyclists to train harder and be more disciplined.

"Kumaresen and Effendy should learn from their rivals on how to be good cyclists so one day they can also be as good as them," he said.

Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff was also present at the dinner. --
BERNAMA

ZAA AO