

05 MAY 1996

Mahathir-Razaleigh

RAZALEIGH CAN MEET ME IF HE WANTS TO, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Parti Melayu Semangat 46 President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah can meet him again if he wants to.

"If he wants to, go ahead," said Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno President, after presenting certificates of appreciation to those involved in the recent cycling event, Le Tour de Langkawi 1996 here.

A news report today quoted Tengku Razaleigh as saying that he hoped to meet Dr Mahathir again as a follow-up to their earlier meeting held recently.

He said he had conveyed his intention to Dr Mahathir and was waiting for a reply from the Prime Minister.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said the next year's Le Tour de Langkawi would be extended to include Sabah and Sarawak.

"This will make the cycling event truly Malaysian," he said, adding that the government had agreed to make the race an annual event.

Dr Mahathir was also satisfied with the co-operation given by all parties involved in the race which proved that Malaysia was also capable of organising international standard cycling event.

But he said the event was not purely to reap profits.

"Contributions from companies are needed because of the high cost involved especially for the prizes to attract international riders," he said.

During the function, Dr Mahathir also presented a cheque for RM100,000 to the Malaysian National Cycling Federation (MNCF) and another for RM25,000 to Peninsular Malaysia Police Fund, on behalf of the organiser of the event, First Cartel (M) Sdn Bhd.

First Cartel Operation Director, Izmee Anwar Datuk Ismail said next year's event would be dedicated to hill climbs.

Meanwhile, MNCF President Haji Abu Samah Wahab said the money received today would be used for financing cycling courses as well as sending the national cycling team for overseas training and championships.

A total of 120 people received the certificates from the Prime Minister. They included consultants and members of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRSC) as well as police and air force personnel.

--BERNAMA

MAM ABG