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Mahathir-Atlanta

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, MALAYSIA'S OLYMPIC TEAM TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Discipline, Dedication and Don't Give Up -- these are the words of advice from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Malaysian contingent to the centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, United States, this month.

The Prime Minister said that without these three criteria, their mission to achieve glory and excellence for themselves and the country would be a failure.

"If we have discipline and dedication and don't give up easily, we can achieve what we have set out to do...I would like to remind the team to uphold discipline at all times," he told the Atlanta-bound athletes at the Pan Pacific Hotel, here, today.

The Malaysian contingent, comprising 36 athletes and 28 officials, will take part in eight events -- athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing, hockey, swimming, shooting and yachting. They will leave for Atlanta on July 13.

"You are there (Atlanta) because you want to win and uphold Malaysia's good name and not to enjoy or see how Atlanta is," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that huge amounts of money were and would be spent to ensure that the Malaysian team brought fame to the country and as such, they must show responsibility and commitment at all times.

The Prime Minister said the Malaysian team should follow the rules and regulations during their training and not let their emotions get in the way.

"We need to have discipline so that we will not rebel because of personal problems," he said.

He stressed the need for the athletes to strictly follow their training time-table to ensure that they were fit and ready to take on their challengers.

Dr Mahathir said they should also not feel disheartened should they fail to win any medals or did not perform up to expectation. "Keep on fighting till the very last...until the contest is over, you have not lost and remember that always," he said.

He added: "We are trying to build a country that will be respected by the world and as such, we should prove that Malaysia has the capacity to excel in sports just as in politics, social affairs and so on."

The Prime Minister later presented the national flag to chef-de-mission Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan. -- BERNAMA

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