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Mahathir-Solar

UTM COMMENDED FOR R&D ON SOLAR POWERED CARS

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today commended Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for venturing into research and development on solar powered cars, describing it as a good effort.

He said there was a need for those involved in the field to enhance the technology to improve further the quality of such vehicles.

Dr Mahathir said this at a news conference to launch the "University-Industry Technology Advancement Programme" (UNITAP) at UTM Skudai here.

The UTM started its solar car project on Jan 1 last year as a design exercise in Research and Development (R&D) for the staff and the undergraduates.

Its R&D team has designed a solar powered car "Suria 2020" for the World Solar Challenge in Australia on Oct 27.

Dr Mahathir later officiated the launching of the solar powered car as well as the Malaysia's first sports car "ARG-10" and Formula M car at the foyer, Bangunan Dewan Sultan Iskandar.

He also received a cheque for RM518,000 from an entrepreneur Datuk Tharu T. Tharumagnanam for UTM's R&D activities. The money was from the sales of his book entitled "The Making of The National Car - Not Just A Dream".

UTM Solar Car Project Director Abdul Mutaali Othman said UTM was looking for the car's driver among the staff and undergraduates.

He said 54 participants from several countries were expected to take part in 3,010-km race from Darwin to Adelaide, Australia.

-- BERNAMA

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