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Mahathir-Yacht

DR MAHATHIR TAKES THIRD POSITION IN LANGKAWI YACHT RACE

LANGKAWI, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took an hour off from his busy schedule at the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) '97 Exhibition to participate in the celebrity yacht race, here, finishing a respectable third among the 10 teams.

"It was a good ride and fast and I had to move from side to side," he told reporters after the race.

He said Langkawi was an ideal place for recreational water sports due to its scenic view, cool air and the absence of haze.

Also in the race held near Tanjung Malai, here, were Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who took fifth spot, and Huswah Exhibition Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Wahab Nawi who came in first.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir launched the "Ekobike", Malaysia's first battery-powered motorised bicycle, at the maritime segment of Lima '97.

The battery for the RM2,188 bike can last 30km with a maximum speed of 20km per hour and takes five hours to recharge. Commercial production of the bike will start in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, soon.

The project is a joint venture between TWM Enterprise Sdn Bhd, a Selangor-based company, and Yong Au Mechanical R&D Company Ltd from China.

The Ekobike, so named because it is economical and environment-friendly, has 70 per cent local component while the motorised parts and batteries are imported from China.

Dr Mahathir also visited the Pakistani submarine, one of the four submarines anchored at Tanjung Malai jetty for the maritime show. --

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