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MAHATHIR LAUNCHES MALAYSIA CHALLENGE '97

LANGKAWI, Dec 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Malaysia Challenge '97, an international sailing event, on board the "MY A. Khaliq" ferry.

Twelve teams from nine countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, France, Germany and Malaysia are taking part in the race offering US\$100,000 (RM360,000) in prize money.

Reigning world champion Peter Gilmour are among the 48 sailors competing in the race which is now recognised as a world circuit.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir opened the Maritime Division of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA '97) Exhibition and Star Cruise Jetty, both at Tanjung Malai, here.

He later visited the maritime exhibition. -- BERNAMA

JM TS