

Discard sloppy attitude, says PM

By ZUHRIN AZAM

LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Malaysians yesterday to discard their sloppy attitude in order to take the country to greater heights.

He said the people should stop taking things for granted because such an attitude could turn out to be very costly.

"The *chin-chai chin-chai* (sloppy) attitude should stop here," he said when launching the inaugural Langkawi Air Carnival at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre here.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Kedah Mentri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Langkawi MP Datuk Abu Bakar Taib.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysians should have an attitude similar to the work culture adopted by those in the aviation industry, which emphasises precision and excellence in flying and maintaining aircraft.

"In flying, there is no room for the slightest mistake, or you could end up in disaster," he said.

"In aviation, everything

must be 100% perfect and if we can adopt this in our daily routine, I am quite sure our nation can advance quickly," he said.

The opening ceremony was followed by a 30-minute aerobatics performance by 14 Royal Malaysian Air Force jets comprising MiG-29s, F-18 Hornets and Hawks.

The three-day carnival is jointly organised by the Langkawi Air Recreational Club and the Department of Civil Aviation. A total of 74 aircraft, mostly light aircraft, are taking part.

Dr Mahathir later launched the *Jalur Gemilang* sailing yacht at the Awana Genting Hotel in Tanjung Malai, here, signalling the readiness of Perlis-born Azhar Mansor to embark on an attempt to set two world records.

The first is to sail non-stop solo around the world on a new route verified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council. The second is to break the current world record of 105 days, 20 hours 31 minutes and 23 seconds held by Frenchman Christophe Auguin.

Azhar will start from Langkawi and sail the Indi-

an, Pacific and Atlantic oceans to get back to Langkawi, passing the five southern-most capes, and making a long loop northwards off Recife in Brazil, to complete the 21,600 nautical miles (40,000km) required by the council as a circumnavigation.

Speaking to newsmen later, Dr Mahathir said he would like to see more Malaysians involved in such endeavours as it could enhance the country's image.

"This should be the kind of activity our people should undertake, rather than doing things that do not do any good to the country's image.

"Unfortunately, most of our people are not interested in such activity.

"The press is not interested in it because they seem not to have noticed it at all. The press is only interested when there is trouble," he said.

"I am quite sure that if Azhar stands by the roadside holding a placard demanding that the Government step down, they will take the picture and print it. I am sorry for being cynical but the press seems just not interested about this," he said.