

12 AUG 1998
Games-Mahathir
DO NOT SLACK IN TRAINING, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised athletes selected for the 16th Commonwealth Games to concentrate on their training to ensure they are fully prepared for the challenge ahead.

"Although the Games are just 30 days away, the training process is still needed to ensure the athletes' performance remains at the highest level," the Prime Minister said when handing over the national flag "Jalur Gemilang" to the Malaysian contingent at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here.

He said they should undergo training with full diligence, in high spirits and with discipline by following the coaches' instructions.

He said such continuous and systematic training would not only bring success but also boost their mental strength and self-confidence when they go into competition.

"Athletes should now be focussed on equipping themselves to a level where they are really prepared for any challenges that they may face at the Games," he said.

Dr Mahathir said as the Games were getting so close there was no time left to question the training methods or the capability of coaches.

"The coaches' instructions must be followed and do not drag in matters that would only be detrimental to the athletes themselves...the important thing is we must give priority to a win for the country irrespective of who contributes to the victory because the contestants are Malaysians.

"It does not matter if we do not win but efforts in search of victory should be displayed...do not be disappointed and it is important to believe in yourself," he said.

Chef-de-mission Datuk Khalid Yunus, when met after the ceremony, said the Prime Minister's message was a challenge to the athletes to prove themselves.

The athletes should not take the advice lightly but should continue to strive to give their best, he said.

"Athletes and officials should respond to the Prime Minister's call and prove their commitment to bring glory to the country," he said.

At the ceremony, artistic gymnast Au Li Yen presented to the Prime Minister the Malaysian contingent's RM7,760 contribution to the National Special Fund to help in national economic recovery.

-- BERNAMA
AHA YBY