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Dr Mahathir happy with overall running of Games

LANGKAWI, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is satisfied with the overall running of the 16th Commonwealth Games.

Speaking to reporters at the Langkawi International Airport after visiting the Langkawi International Shooting Range where the shooting events are being held, Dr Mahathir said he was very happy with the smooth running of the Games.

"It has gone off very well, I must say. All the time I expect things to go wrong but Alhamdulillah (thanks to God) until today, there is no big problem which could disrupt the running of Sukom and I consider this as a success of the officials in organising the Games...they have done a great job," he added.

Dr Mahathir was also happy that Malaysia had won a gold medal in the women's air rifle event when Nurul Huda Baharin broke the Games record and the success of Zainal Abidin Md Zain who secured a silver in the full bore rifle event.

During the visit, the Prime Minister presented the gold medal to Nurul Huda and silver and bronze medals to other winners of the event.

Dr Mahathir said he was proud with the spirit and grit shown by Nurul Huda even though she was still recuperating from a broken arm suffered in a road crash.

He said this was the kind of spirit expected of athletes and the people of Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said Nurul Huda had shown that she has a big heart to win and brace the huge challenges facing her.

Dr Mahathir also congratulated Zainal Abidin for winning the silver medal.

He said although Malaysian athletes were physically smaller they had proven that size did not matter.

Dr Mahathir said he had suggested that Malaysians concentrate more on sports.

On the number of gold medals won by Malaysia, the Prime Minister said it was beyond Malaysia's expectations to win such a big number of medals.

"It is their discipline and training which enabled them to win the medals and I am sure if we improve on that we will be more successful," he added.

Asked whether his reminder to the athletes to stop bickering before the start of the Games had been effective, Dr Mahathir said it had been effective even though there were still athletes who sulked and tried to affect others.

He said all athletes should set aside personal interests. Their priority should be to strive and excel for the nation's sake.

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