

17 SEP 1998

Games-Mahathir

M'SIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN GAMES BEYOND EXPECTATIONS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia's achievements in the on-going 16th Commonwealth Games have been beyond expectations.

The country for instance had not won any medal in women's badminton for many years, said the Prime Minister.

"But this time we won a medal," he said, referring to Malaysia's silver medal win in the women's badminton team event.

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking to reporters after watching the athletics events at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here, appeared overwhelmed with the performance of the Malaysian contingent.

"I am very happy with the result and would like to say thank you and congratulations to all athletes and volunteers and officials of Sukom," he said.

On Malaysia's fourth gold medal, won in weightlifting today, Dr Mahathir said he felt proud.

He said many people thought that Malaysians were not suitable for that event.

"But we can prove that "Malaysia Boleh" (Malaysia can) even in an area where we don't have the physical stature," he said.

Malaysia ended 48 years of waiting for a gold in the Commonwealth Games weightlifting event when Muhamad Hidayat Hamidon lifted 167.5kg in the 69kg clean and jerk category, beating 15 other lifters.

On the Malaysia-Canada hockey match played at the National Hockey Stadium earlier today, Dr Mahathir said: "They really played very well and it was tough."

The Malaysian team beat Canada 2-1 to qualify for the semifinals of the men's hockey tournament.

--BERNAMA

ES SK