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PM: Show off our success

Badrul Hisham Mahzan

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Malaysian athletes to break records, win gold medals and show the world they can be successful in achieving their goals.

The Prime Minister said the victories were not theirs alone, but also that of the nation.

He added the athletes can achieve success if they trained hard and were determined to win.

"Faced with the current economic problems, any victory that can promote fighting spirit among the people should be encouraged," he said when closing the Seventh Malaysia Games at Shah Alam Indoor Stadium last night.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and other dignitaries.

For this reason, the Prime Minister said he praised the efforts of Malaysians who achieved various successes, including reaching the top of Mount Everest and skydiving to land on the North Pole.

"Their successes have helped strengthen the people's spirit to brace for the challenges ahead of them."

He said the Malaysian-made Proton car, which also landed by parachute at the North Pole, created a record of sorts when its engine was easily started despite landing in the cold weather.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysian athletes must inculcate the fighting spirit in them through rigorous training.

"We may be physically small in size but we can excel in certain sports like weightlifting and swimming.

"I am confident they will be able to create new records not only on the local sports scene but also internationally."

Later, the Prime Minister presented the Sukma flag to Koh as Penang will be hosting the eighth Games in Penang in the year 2000.

* Sarawak's Chai Song Lip and Kuala Lumpur's Ho Hsu Ee were named Best Sportsman and Sportswoman respectively at the end of the Games yesterday. Each received a trophy and certificate.

Chai, 21, a first year Universiti Putra Malaysia civil engineering student, broke meet records in the long jump and triple jump, while 19-year-old Hsu Ee shattered the 50m freestyle national record.

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