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PM: Stay focused on training, winning medals

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked Malaysia competitors to the Commonwealth Games to concentrate fully on training and not be distracted by irrelevant issues from now on.

Making it clear this was not the time to sulk or to threaten to pull out as the interests of the nation were paramount, Dr Mahathir said athletes should listen to their coaches and focus on physical and mental preparations.

"If there is a need to train 10 times a day, let's do it," he told the Malaysian contingent before handing over the Jalur Gemilang to chef-de-mission Datuk Khalid Yunus at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil.

The Prime Minister touches on the importance of intensive training many times in his speech, saying it was particularly important since Malaysia's medal prospects were confined to a few events.

"As Malaysians, we must uphold the image of the country and stay focused on winning medals for the country".

Explaining that individuals were not important as was the case with one's colour, Dr Mahathir alluded to how black athletes were dominating the world's track events.

Like wise, their fans too did not look at their colour.

The Prime Minister said on his part, he would attend as many events at the Games as possible.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin presented Dr Mahathir with a replica of a Commonwealth Games "gold medal".

The Prime Minister was also presented with a track-top for the Games by Ghazali Harun of Leopex Sporting Goods, and the signatures of five million Malaysia showing their support for the Commonwealth Games by Nestle Products managing director Ajit Saran.

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