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Mahathir-Commonwealth

PM LAUNCHES COMMONWEALTH GAMES CARNIVAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight launched the Commonwealth Games Carnival and called on Malaysians to be part of the Games especially in joining in the festivity of the opening ceremony on Sept 11.

"The Games are held once in four years. Malaysia may not be host again for a long long time since there are 52 nations in the Commonwealth," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that while athletes were important, spectators were also essential to make a success of the Games.

"We hope on the opening day all seats will be occupied. I hope you will spend your last ringgit for the Games," he said when addressing some 5,000 people who attended the launch, in Bangsar, here.

"We want the opening ceremony to be a celebration. (This way) we can express our support for the Commonwealth Games," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, were met on arrival by Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and the ministry's parliamentary secretary, Datuk Shahrizat Jalil, who is Member of Parliament for Lembah Pantai.

Dr Mahathir said that even those who had bought tickets by way of donation should use them to watch the various events during the Games to be held until Sept 21.

He hoped that the country's athletes would give their best so that they could win medals as the whole country would want to share their glory.

The prime minister also said that Malaysians should extend their hospitality to their guests who had come for the Games.

"We want them to have fond memories of their stay here. Nothing else can be better than good hospitality. If you have some money, pay for their food also," he said jokingly.

At the function, Dr Mahathir received a total of RM535,340 from several companies which had bought tickets for the various events.

-- BERNAMA

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