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Games-Mahathir (Holiday)

PUBLIC HOLIDAY IF MALAYSIA GETS EXCELLENT RESULTS AT GAMES

LANGKAWI, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that a national public holiday may be declared if Malaysia achieves outstanding success at the ongoing 16th Commonwealth Games.

The Prime Minister said this could become a reality if everyone concerned worked very hard and displayed high spirits.

"I may consider (declaring a holiday) if we do very, very well," he told a press conference after visiting the Langkawi International Shooting Range Malaysia (LISRAM), where the Games' shooting events are being held.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could achieve excellent results if the athletes displayed a high level of discipline.

"Malaysia will not taste success if we allow ourselves to be influenced by feelings of anger, jealousy and frustration," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were still Malaysian athletes who liked to sulk or impose conditions on others.

"In this field, there is no room for personal feelings and we should think of ourselves as Malaysians and be ready to serve the country without imposing all sorts of conditions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was impressed with the achievement of national shooter Nuru Huda Baharin who today won the women's individual air rifle in a Commonwealth Games record although she was still recovering from a broken arm.

"This is the kind of spirit we want to see among our athletes and other Malaysians, the willingness to overcome big challenges in order to achieve success," he said.

He also congratulated another national shooter, Zainal Abidin Md Zain who won the silver in fullbore rifle.

The Prime Minister was glad that the Games had been going on well although it was expected to run into problems. The Games opened on Sept 11 and will end on Sept 21.

"Alhamdulillah, up to today there have been no major problems affecting the running of the Games," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AHM YBY