

14 OCT 1999

Mahathir-Show

DR MAHATHIR OPENS KL MOTORSPORTS SHOW `99

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad opened the KL Motorsports Show `99 at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

The show, organised by Le Proton LIMA Sdn Bhd, is until Oct 24.

In a message in the show's souvenir programme, the prime minister said the government had always encouraged motorsports and the recent abolition of taxes and duties on go-kart and karting equipment was a step towards cultivating aspiring racing drivers.

"The government has taken bold initiatives to promote Malaysia as one of the best motor sports countries in the world. The hosting of the Formula One race will certainly mark Malaysia's entry into the world's motor sports league," he said.

Dr Mahathir congratulated the show organiser for taking the initiative to create a bigger following for motorsports in the country.

The prime minister said although the top motorsport was obviously the F1 race, one must not forget that other kinds of motorsport events were equally important.

"One must remember that one must start from somewhere before one can reach the top or achieve the ultimate," he said.

As part of the show, Dr Mahathir launched the Perodua E-Shoppe and unveiled a cosmetically improved version of the Perodua Kancil, the second national car.

-- BERNAMA

HS RYN