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Mahathir-Azhar

DR MAHATHIR PROUD OF MALAYSIAN MARINER AZHAR'S ACHIEVEMENT

JITRA, May 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is proud of the achievements so far of Malaysian mariner Azhar Mansor who is currently on a solo round the world voyage on his yacht the "Jalur Gemilang."

He is now in the Falklands off Argentina repairing the damaged mast of his yacht.

"Azhar can be an example to youths. He is industrious, active and has strong fighting spirit as well as courage. He is willing to go despite the difficult challenges to be faced," he said.

Inspite of the problems of the huge waves and a broken mast, Azhar is determined to continue, the Prime Minister said when speaking to reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here.

"When the mast broke, he contacted the Prime Minister's Department, at that time I was indisposed, to get my view whether he should continue."

"I told him if he is still willing, he can carry on and now he has made it to the the Falklands even with a broken mast," the Prime Minister said.

Azhar left Langkawi on Feb 2 to set a world record in a solo non-stop round the world yacht voyage on the West-East route.

However on April 12, after 78 days on the high seas, the mast of his yacht broke in the Southern Ocean near Cape Horn.

Dr Mahathir said the 40-year-old Azhar's achievement had also brought pride to the country.

"This is the type of person which the country needs not the type which go for drugs, bohsia, bohjan, loafing and which get involved in street demonstrations and kick people's cars," he said.

"Look at Azhar, even alone he is brave in facing challenges not like some when only in large numbers they are brave and kick people's cars," he said.

Replying to a question at the news conference, the Prime Minister said Umno had no plans to extend its wings to local universities like the Umno Clubs set up by Malaysian students overseas.

Dr Mahathir said Umno felt it was inappropriate to bring politics into universities and involve the students in political activities.

He said Umno would not follow the steps of the opposition which had used university students to advance the party's interests without considering their future.

"To the opposition winning the election is the most important thing... it does not matter what becomes of the students if they fail in their studies," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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