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Extend stay in Malaysia, Dr M urges fans

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday welcomed foreign fans of Formula One championship to extend their stay in the country.

"The F1's next leg in Japan is only two weeks away. Why not extend your stay here and visit Malaysia," he said at the Formula One Gala Dinner in Kuala Lumpur last night.

He said Malaysia is honoured and happy to be the host of the premier event. "At the end of 1999, at the end of the millennium, Malaysia is glad to host the Formula One Grand Prix."

Dr Mahathir said he hopes the F1 visitors will have an enjoyable time during the international race, and a pleasant stay in the country.

"Find some time to move around our country, which we believe is very beautiful. But that is only our view," he added.

"The longer your stay, the better it will be for us in Malaysia," he said in jest.

Among those who attended the Gala Dinner were F1 drivers and their team managers. These include Mika Hakkinen, Eddie Irvine, Alain Prost and Giancarlo Fisichella. Entertainer extraordinaire Shirley Bassey belted a few popular numbers for the guests.

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