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Mahathir: World Cup is good for the economy

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WITH 600 million viewers worldwide expected to watch the World Cup Golf '99 telecast, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the tournament will once again endorse Malaysia's capability of organising world class events.

It would also, the Prime Minister said, help attract more tourists to the country like how the recent Petronas Formula One Malaysian Grand Prix did.

"Hotels will be getting more business ...it is good for the economy," Dr Mahathir told reporters after inspecting the Mines Resort and Golf Club course yesterday.

Among those accompanying Dr Mahathir, who is also the patron of the tournament, were Mines Resort City founder Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew and tournament organising chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Ismail.

M. Ramayah and R. Gunasegaran, Malaysia's representative at the World Cup, were at the 18th hole when Dr Mahathir arrived.

Both Ramayah and Gunasegaran played the 18th hole which they parred.

Dr Mahathir then tried his hand at putting on the 18th green.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the course, Dr Mahathir said it was a "good environment" and that the tournament promised to be "very interesting".

He then added jokingly that it was the first time he was inspecting a golf course. "I don't play golf, but I like it (the game)."

On whether he would encourage more golf courses to be built, Dr Mahathir said building golf courses was an investment.

"But people need to be careful when investing. They need to see whether there will be returns.

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