

Emulate Azhar's feat, Dr M urges youths

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Documentary, Internet portal of journey launched

LANGKAWI, Fri: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the nation's youths to be brave and aim high to achieve astounding feats.

"We want the youths to be willing to face challenges and overcome obstacles," the Prime Minister said tonight when launching a documentary and an Internet portal about the feat of Datuk Azhar Mansor, 42, who, exactly one year ago, overcame the odds to become the first Malaysian to sail solo around the world.

Praising Azhar as a modern-day folk hero along

the ranks of historic figures such as Hang Tuah and Mat Kilau, Mahathir told youths to emulate Azhar's achievement - the willingness to endure the worst and to come out tops from the challenge.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Langkawi MP Datuk Abu Bakar Taib, Azhar's family, relatives and local community leaders were also present at the moderate bash at Awana Porto Malai to celebrate the first anniversary of the achievement.

Mahathir said he wants the nation to develop youths

who are full of courage, knowledge and skills to prepare for mounting challenges that life has to offer.

"Azhar is such an example. He used to constantly bother me in seeking sponsors and donations in kind before his epic journey. When the vessel's mast broke into two in the Southern Ocean, I spoke to him on the phone and he asked me if he should continue and since I am not the one sailing, I told him to continue," he said in jest.

see also PAGES 24/25