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Net portal, documentary on Jalur Gemilang Challenge launched

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LANGKAWI, Fri. - An Internet portal and a documentary on the Jalur Gemilang Challenge were launched tonight as a platform to motivate young Malaysians to achieve unlimited success in whatever endeavour they pursue.

Launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the portal, with web address at www.2myportal.cc, provides e-learning dedicated to youths. The 45-minute documentary has motivational elements aimed at instilling spirit- building and enhancement of self-esteem.

The launching ceremony, in conjunction with the first anniversary celebration of national yachtman Datuk Azhar Mansor's triumphant return from his solo voyage, was held at the Awana Porto Malai Resort.

It was here that thousands of Malaysians awaited the historic return of the Jalur Gemilang while others nationwide watched a live telecast of the event last year.

The anniversary, however, is being celebrated on a moderate scale for all Malaysians to remember the spirit of patriotism they felt when the Jalur Gemilang reached home.

About 3,000 people, including ministers, were present at tonight's function while thousands more followed the event on television.

The portal, among others, contains a graphic display of Azhar's record-setting attempt to sail solo round the world last year.

The documentary covers aspects of building the yacht, comments before and after, and video footage of Azhar's journey.

It has 3-D computer animation when Azhar's yacht suffered a knock-down (a situation where the yacht went underwater and came up) and comes in VCD and CD-Rom.

In an interview earlier, Azhar said he hoped the Jalur Gemilang Challenge would be celebrated every May 11.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir urged young Malaysians attempting any feat to prepare themselves for the expected challenges ahead.

He said they should emulate Azhar, who before making an attempt to sail solo round the world, had studied various aspects of sailing, including navigation based on the stars.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia did not have that many heroes and would like to see more Malaysians taking up challenges.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for the aspirants to be knowledgeable in order to succeed. "They should prepare themselves to overcome all the challenges."

Dr Mahathir said Azhar, who covered 2,600 nautical miles in 190 days, was a national hero who made the country proud and the younger generation should thus make the yachtman their model.

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