

# Dr M: Instil culture of voluntariness

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun:** The culture of contributing time and energy voluntarily must be further inculcated in all Malaysians to make international events such as Le Tour de Langkawi more successful.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said such culture is important as it is not possible for an organiser to pay salary to everyone involved in such a national-level event.

Mahathir said while such a culture is beginning to take place in Malaysia, he hoped that it will continue to be developed so that more such events can be organised.

"Looks like this culture has come to Malaysia. Many have contributed their time and energy. I would like to thank those who contributed their time and energy to make this race a success.

"Many took part voluntarily and they were not paid as their assistance was due to their interest in the race," he said in his speech at a ceremony held at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel in

Seri Kembangan, near here, today.

The function was to thank volunteers and sponsors of the Telekom Malaysia Le Tour de Langkawi 2001. A total of 990 volunteers and officials were involved in the 10-day race.

In expressing personal

gratitude to the volunteers, Mahathir asked them not to feel hurt if they were not treated well as it is normal in an international event. He also said the race has become a world event.

Mahathir also expressed gratitude to those who sponsored the event.

"I would like to thank those people who have been receiving letters from me asking for donations."

There were 175 riders in this year's race and of the 25 teams, seven were first timers. Five teams were in division one, compared with only one team last year.