

Mahathir leads the charge in endurance ride

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BANGI, Sun: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today proved that his leadership skills do not only apply in politics and government but also in sports.

He was cheered by spectators at the Royal Malaysia Police/Tenaga International Endurance Ride 2001 as he led his team of four on horseback to finish second, with the time of 5'24:40.

The prime minister arrived looking flushed and sweaty but grinned in delight that his team scored a podium finish in the 17km Perdana Classic category, beginning from Putrajaya and finishing in the Universiti Tenaga Nasional campus.

The first place went to the Mayor team, led by Kota Kinabalu mayor Datuk Abdul Ghani Rashid, who finished at 3'52:13.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd team, led by chairman Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis, came in third with the time of 5'24:40.

During the news conference, Mahathir said the race was very interesting.

"At first I didn't think I could finish. Today's race was very tough due to the humid weather."

He added that the government is encouraging the public to take up equestrian sports by making available facilities and having its agencies help out.

"Another way is to lead by example, which has forced me into horse-riding. It's a tough job for someone my age, but if I don't start no one will."

The race, jointly-organised by the police and Tenaga, also included two other categories: the 60km Putrajaya Challenge and the 80km Tenaga Enduro FEI Category B.

Also present at the finish line were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai, who gave away the trophies, and his deputy, Tan Sri Jamil Johari.