

Support sports development, private sector told

STAR

2001

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the private sector to be more supportive of sports development in the country.

He said it was part of the sector's civic duties to ensure that athletes and sports associations concentrate on improving their skill and performances without having to worry about sponsors.

He said many Malaysians had the potential to do the country proud provided they honed their skill to perfection.

"It is clear that Malaysian athletes, being mostly smaller in stature, find it hard to excel in sports where physical strength is the only determining factor.

"But there are many other sports disciplines where skill and fighting spirit can win us medals, and squash is one of

them," he said after receiving cheques from 10 companies on behalf of the Squash Rackets Association of Malaysia at his office yesterday.

The companies whose combined contribution came to almost RM500,000 are Formis (M) Bhd, Mulpha Sports Sdn Bhd, Magnum Corporation Bhd, Business Focus Group, Asian Consulting Group Sdn Bhd, Avenue Assets Bhd, Tongkah Medivest Sdn Bhd, Cerah Daya Sdn Bhd, NMB Holdings Sdn Bhd and OPI Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir said for Malaysian athletes to bring back the needed medals, they must concentrate single-mindedly on training and improving their fighting spirit and this could only be done if they did not have to worry about the financial aspect of their sporting activities.