

25 FEB 2001

MAHATHIR ATTENDS POWERBOAT GRAND PRIX (With pix)

JOHOR BAHRU, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today attended the Formula One Powerboat Malaysian Grand Prix here.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was met on arrival at the Senai Airport by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

They then proceeded to Tanjung Puteri to join thousands of people who packed the bund to watch the race held in Johor for the first time.

The Malaysian GP kicks-off the 12-leg World Championship. Participants from 15 countries are taking part in this year's event.

Penang previously staged the event in 1994.

In his message in the GP's souvenir programme, Dr Mahathir said the championship reflected the international community's confidence in Malaysia's ability and credibility in hosting world-class events.

"The organisation of this championship also reflects our determination to explore international sports as a new arena to promote the country to the world," said Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

TCL RV RYN