

11 NOV 2001

Mahathir-Endurance

PM WINS THIRD PLACE IN ENDURANCE RACE

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad won third place in the Perdana Classic 20km individual event of the PDRM/TNB International Endurance Ride 2001, an equestrian race, here today.

He took one hour 48 minutes and four seconds to cross the finishing line.

The champion was the Datuk Bandar of Kota Kinabalu, Datuk Abdul Ghani Rashid (1:1:59s), while the runner-up was Insp Mohamad Din Mat (1:2:00s).

The race started at the Putrajaya Mounted Uni Stable and ended in front of the Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) Hall here.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali was among those waiting at the finishing line to congratulate the prime minister.

In the team event, the prime minister's team led by Dr Mahathir emerged runner-up with a time of one hour 24 minutes and 14 seconds.

The mayor's team led by Abdul Ghani was first with a time of 3:52:13s while the third place went to Tenaga Nasional Berhad team led by its chairman, Pengerusi TNB Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis (5:24:40s).

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said the event he took part in had to be stopped after slightly over 17km instead of the original 20km because of the poor condition of the route.

He said equestrian sport was very interesting and more Malaysians should take part.

"I feel that more people can take part. I myself thought that I would not be able to finish at first but in the end I made it.

"But this is not the longest ride I've taken. I have ridden up to 30km, but this time, although it was 17km, the weather was humid, we did not sweat much."

He said he had experienced riding for over 30km in Argentina.

Dr Mahathir said he was forced to take part in today's event to lead by example and to encourage more Malaysians to take up equestrian sports.

Speaking to reporters later, Dr Mahathir said the event he took part in had to be stopped after slightly over 17km instead of the original 20km because of the poor condition of the track.

He said equestrian sport was very interesting and more Malaysians should take part.

"I feel that more people can take part. I myself thought that I would not be able to finish at first but in the end I made it.

"But this is not the longest ride I've taken. I have ridden up to 30km, but this time, although it was 17km, the weather was humid, we did not sweat much."

He said he had experienced riding for over 30km in Argentina.

Dr Mahathir said he was forced to take part in today's event to lead by example and to encourage more Malaysians to take up equestrian sports.

"Its very difficult for person my age, but if I don't start something, people won't do it.

"So, that is one of the things that the government is doing. Other than that, of course, we are making available the facilities, the government agencies are helping out, so we are doing quite a lot to encourage sport, all kinds of sports." he said.

Dr Mahathir said equestrian sport was not an expensive sport in Malaysia compared with other countries.

In other countries, he said, the diplomats never had a chance to ride

horses because it was expensive but in Malaysia they could afford to ride  
horses because the cost of equestrian sports was very low.

-- BERNAMA

AFY DC JK