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Mahathir-LTdL

PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the volunteerism culture should be promoted because it brings many benefits to various parties.

"I hope this attitude will continue so that we can further develop activities like this," he said at a function here in appreciation of the services rendered by sponsors and volunteers in the Le Tour de Langkawi 2001 cycling race in February in which several foreign teams participated.

He thanked all Malaysians involved in making the international event a success.

"Many have volunteered their energy and time to make this programme a success. It would have been impossible to pay a salary but because there were people who were willing to help, we were able to run the event successfully," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the LTdL had also succeeded in introducing Malaysia to the world with the mass media coverage also depicting the way of life of the multiracial Malaysian society and the places of interest along the race circuit.

"Not only was the race shown but also the scenery in Malaysia which indirectly attracted tourists to the country," he said.

A total of 990 officials and volunteers were involved in the race organised by First Cartel (M) Sdn Bhd and participated by 175 cyclists representing 25 teams.

Dr Mahathir also praised Malaysians who he said were now more supportive of sports events held in the country.

"Without them, surely the event will not be interesting...not be able to boost the spirit of the participants," he said.

He was also proud that the LTdL, which was previously planned to be staged in Langkawi only had succeeded in going nationwide.

At the function, the prime minister also presented prizes to winners of a TV quiz held in conjunction with the LTdL.

The quiz, which was held for the third year running, offered a Proton Wira 1.5 car sponsored by Proton as the main prize as well as handphones, bicycles and hampers. It attracted 15,000 entries.

The lucky first-prize winner was Atiyansa @ Mardhiyyah Mohamad Salleh of Kampung Baru, here.

-- BERNAMA

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