

# F1 powerboat race good for us: PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the F1 Powerboat World Championship is yet another event which has promoted Malaysia to the world.

“With this event, we hope more people will be interested in visiting Malaysia. Unfortunately it is a bit hazy today, otherwise they will be able to see how green our country is and how nicely the houses have been built,”

he said pointing to the houses that line the vast lake at the Mines Resort City where he has a private residence.

Speaking at a media conference at the end of the Malaysian leg of the championship at the resort, Mahathir said he believes the event would become very popular.

He also said the Mines lake is suitable for powerboat racing because its calm water allows for speeding.

The prime minister said the public has responded well to the race. This is not unlike the support they have been giving to other sporting events like the F1 Race at the Sepang Circuit and the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace show, where there have been a great deal of interest from both locals and foreigners.

“I’m quite sure that in the future, once this place becomes the permanent loca-

tion (for the powerboat event), there will be a lot of people, including foreigners, coming,” he said.

Mahathir said the government always supports any event that is good for the country.

He said Malaysia is in the running for the award for the best organiser of the Formula 1 Powerboat World Championship. Last year, Malaysia was adjudged the best organiser of the event.