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Government support for Le Tour de Langkawi to continue

PUTRAJAYA, Sun. - The Government will continue to support the Le Tour de Langkawi international bicycle race as the event had introduced Malaysia to the world in a very positive way, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This event is very important, it is even more important than the F1 because Le Tour de Langkawi promotes the many different venues in the country whereas F1 is only confined to the track.

"We are able to capitalise on the worldwide publicity that this race generates and I hope that our host broadcasters would be able to do more to further publicise this annual race event."

In his brief speech at the appreciation luncheon for tour staff and sponsors of the Le Tour de Langkawi 2002 at the JW Marriot Hotel here, the Prime Minister expressed hope that the people's interest in the annual event could be further developed, similar to the "football craze".

He also thanked the sponsors of the event for their meaningful contributions.

"This is one unique corporate culture in Malaysia that we should be proud of ... the sponsors are always there to enable us to have world-class event right at our doorstep."

Later, at the same venue, Dr Mahathir officially launched the Le Tour de Langkawi 2003 and gave away prizes to winners of the Telekom Malaysia Le Tour de Langkawi 2002 Grand Quiz.

The quiz was aired on TV1 in conjunction with the race which was held between Feb 1 and Dec 10.

The grand prize, a Proton Waja, was won by 16-year-old student Aliff Radzuan Mohd Radzi, from Selayang.

Also present was First Cartel Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Wan Lokman Wan Ibrahim, Telekom Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Radzi Mansor and other corporate leaders.

First Cartel is the organiser of the race, while Telekom Malaysia is the principal sponsor.