

28/01/2002

PM: We need more support

Abdul Razak Ahmad

MALAYSIA intends to encourage the hosting and participation of locals in various types of extreme sports, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Speaking after presenting prizes to winners of the Third Langkawi Malaysia Ironman Triathlon at Dataran Lang yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the country aimed to host the competition every year and to increase the number of participants.

"We feel that our youths will be able to try out such healthy activities ... at the same time, we hope Malaysians who participate in such competitions will achieve success," he said.

New Zealander Bryan Rhodes, 28, won the competition, which involved a 3.8km swim, followed by a cycling for a distance of 180.2km and a 42.2km marathon.

The competition was participated by 383 contestants from various countries including Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said he was satisfied with the event's organisation.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir flagged off the Rotax World Finals go-kart race.

The Prime Minister said he felt the race was very thrilling and close.

He said the organisation of the race was good, and hoped that future races would be able to attract larger crowds.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians who participated in such international races would not be able to score victories immediately, but had to try many times.

On the fact that the go-kart race was being held at the same time with the Ironman triathlon, Dr Mahathir said it would help Langkawi to gain stature as a good venue for various sporting competitions.

(END)