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Mahathir-Equestrian

PROMOTE EQUESTRIAN SPORT, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the local public and private sectors to help promote equestrian sport as it can benefit the nation.

"Though equestrian has yet to become as popular as perhaps football, badminton or even auto racing, it has nonetheless great potential as a high profile sport," he said in his message in the programme book of the Equestrian Gala Dinner in conjunction with the Malaysian Open 2002 and Merdeka Masters 2002 here tonight.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was the guest of honour at the dinner.

Dr Mahathir said equestrian was a relatively new sport in Malaysia, but it was fast gaining recognition and popularity.

He said one advantage of equestrian events to Malaysians was that the physique of athletes did not count much and skill was the most important factor.

He said Malaysian riders had made considerable achievements in the sport.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Equestrian Association president Md Azar Ismail said Malaysia would send dressage and show-jumping teams to the Asian Games in Busan in October.

-- BERNAMA

RZS MUN YBY