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DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES F1 POWER BOAT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Formula 1 (F1) Power Boat World Malaysia Championship Grand Prix which was telecast live to 60 countries to an audience of more than 750 million.

The grand prix which is being organised by Malaysia for the third year will see tough competition among 24 international racers to complete the 1,955km circuit in 45 minutes.

Before the race started, 13 professional water skiers from the Cyprus Garden and Sea World gave a 15-minute performance followed by a parade by future F1 dinghy drivers.

Dr Mahathir was then taken on a boat ride on the the Sri Kembangan Mines Resort City lake -- the venue of the championship. He was accompanied by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

After the ride, Dr Mahathir was presented with the Jalur Gemilang by marathon swimmer, Datuk Malik Mydin, who recently conquered the icy waters of the English Channel, before it was hoisted by the police representative. This was followed by the rendition of the NegaraKu

Dr Mahathir then pressed the siren button to mark the launch of the championship.

-- BERNAMA

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