

22 JUL 2003

Sports-English Channel (Mahathir)

MAHATHIR WISHES SWIMMER MALIK SUCCESS IN HIS ATTEMPT

By: Asan Ahmad

DOVER (London), July 22 (Bernama) -- Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein has handed a written message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Abdul Malik Mydin, wishing the marathon swimmer success in his attempt to become the first Malaysian to swim across the English Channel.

In the message, Dr Mahathir also wrote: "Malaysia Boleh and I am confident Malik also `boleh' (can do it). We pray Malik will be successful."

Hishammuddin, who arrived here last week to see Malik prepared himself for the swim, said he handed over the message to 28-year-old swimmer.

"The PM hopes that Malik's attempt will be successful and be an example to other young Malaysians," he told reporters here.

Hishammuddin said Dr Mahathir would also follow Malik's every stroke to reach Calais in France.

The Prime Minister, who is also patron of the English Channel projet, told Malik to do his best in his attempt, the success of which would be a pride to all Malaysians.

Malik said he was moved by the support given by Dr Mahathir and would strive hard to realise his dream and also that of all Malaysians.

"I am moved...even though the PM is not here, he has always being supportive of my effort," he said.

Last night, Malaysians residing in London held a thanksgiving `kenduri' (feast) for Malik at the Malaysia Hall, followed by a `sembahyang hajat'.

Earlier in the day, the Malaysian High Commissioner Datuk Salleh Hashim also held a reception for Malik.

Also present were Deputy Secretary-General of the Youth and Sports Ministry Datuk Talaat Mansor and Youth and Sports Director-General Datuk Raja Ruslan Raja Samah.

-- BERNAMA

AHA ABG