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Mahathir-Spirit

NEW SPIRIT WILL PROPEL M'SIANS TOWARDS SUCCESS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA PERLIS, May 24 (Bernama) -- The new spirit, or willingness to assert oneself, among Malaysians today would propel them towards success in various fields, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said that in the past they did not care if they performed lesser than others but it was different now.

"This is the new spirit we see in Malaysians," he said when flagging off national marathon swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin at the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM) jetty here tonight.

Malik, 28, is attempting to swim from here to Langkawi, covering a distance of 48 kilometres, a feat never before attempted by anyone to join the ranks of famous Malaysians like national sailing hero Datuk Azhar Mansor.

Azhar became the first person ever to set a solo east-west circumnavigation record covering more than 25,000 nautical miles in 1999. Azhar was the first to circle the globe from the Indian Ocean and end at Langkawi as previous attempts by mostly Westerner mariners began from the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr Mahathir said clearly Malaysians were also capable of achieving success like other people if they put their heart and mind to what they were doing.

Such determination shown by the people in line with the "Malaysia Boleh" slogan would augur well for successful Malaysia, he said.

"If from the start we don't believe in ourselves, naturally we will not achieve success and we will not attempt to something which we think cannot be done," he said.

He said Malaysians must have high discipline and self control to ensure success.

Malik is expected to reach Langkawi in 20 hours in the attempt which is part of his training to cross the 32.8-kilometre English Channel either in July or August.

He started swimming from here at 9.41pm and was seen off by a crowd of some 10,000 people including Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Rural Development Minister DATuk Azmi Khalid.

-- BERNAMA

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