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PM PROUD OF MALAYSIANS' SPIRIT, ABILITIES

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight expressed his pride over the abilities and determination of Malaysians as shown by swimmer Abdul Malik Mydin and shuttler Wong Choong Hann.

Abdul Malik is now in his attempt to be the first Malaysian to swim the English Channel while Choong Hann is the first Malaysian singles player to enter the finals of the World Badminton Championship in its 13th edition in Birmingham, England.

"Alhamdulillah, we can see the "Malaysia Boleh" spirit. This shows that Malaysians have certain abilities," the Prime Minister told reporters after closing the Putrajaya Carnival 2003 here.

Dr Mahathir had reportedly called England twice to offer words of support to Abdul Malik, who took off from Abbots Cliff Beach, Dover at 2.08am (9.08am local time) for Cape Gris-Nez in Calais, France.

Choong Hann, champion of the China and Dutch opens met 5th seed Xia Xuanze from China in the men's singles final at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. However, Choong Hann lost in rubber sets.

-- BERNAMA

MAM EMK