

21 MAR 2004

SPORTS: PM GRACES M'SIAN GP

SEPANG, March 21 (Bernama) -- Despite his busy schedule, casting his ballot early this morning and visiting other constituencies to give support this 11th general election, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took time to join thousands of Malaysians at the Petronas F1 Grand Prix here today.

The Prime Minister arrived at the Sepang F1 Circuit Premier Suite at 3.30pm, just 30 minutes after the race started, and was welcomed by Sepang International Circuit Chairman Datuk Mokhzani Tun Mahathir and General Manager Ahmad Mustafa.

Also present to watch the sixth edition of the Malaysian GP and second race of the 2004 calendar were the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamallulail, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor and wife of the former Prime Minister, Tun Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Abdullah also presented the trophy to the winner, six-time World Champion Michael Schumacher of Ferrari, who celebrates his third win here.

Meanwhile, when met after the race, Ahmad said he was satisfied with the running of today's race and "although today Malaysians go out to vote, I am thankful that thousands still came to see the race".

He estimated the crowd at between 85,000 and 90,000 people.

-- BERNAMA

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