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Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	8/12/2018

AFF SUZUKI CUP FINAL

# Don't let me and the country down, Dr M tells footballers

NSP- 8/12/2018 B.6

**PUTRAJAYA:** "Don't let me and the country down."

That was the message from Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the national football team ahead of their AFF Suzuki Cup final first-leg tie against Vietnam at National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Tuesday.

Dr Mahathir, who will watch the final match at the stadium, met the Harimau Malaya squad at Perdana Putra here yesterday.

"We must win so that we can be proud of the country's ability. I'm not a football fan, but I will be at the stadium for the match that night. So don't let me down. As Malaysians, we are responsible for defending the country's dignity and honour," he said, adding that he hoped the team would do

its best to win.

Present were Football Association of Malaysia president Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin, head coach Tan Cheng Hoe and skipper Zaquan Adha Abd Razak.

Hamidin presented Dr Mahathir with a No. 7 jersey.

Malaysia will travel to Hanoi for the second leg of the final on Dec 15.

Dr Mahathir advised the players to be disciplined.

"I hope you will work hard and practise a lot. Live, sleep and think only of football and winning for Malaysia."

He hoped Malaysia would one day qualify for the World Cup.

"I want to see Malaysia compete in the World Cup one day."

**Bernama**