

SPORTS POSTS CLAMP

***Move to bar Ministers
from holding top
posts in sports bodies***

Mr S. Subramaniam.

Tengku Rithauddeen was the FTFA president for the last three terms. Datuk Dr Tan and Mr Subramaniam were vice-presidents.

At the meeting, the three cited work commitments for not seeking re-election.

However, Tengku Rithauddeen was appointed patron of FTFA. Datuk

CABINET Ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers are expected to be barred from holding posts in sports organisations.

The Malay Mail learnt that the move to ban these top officials from seeking elections to sports bodies has been discussed and agreed at Cabinet level.

The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is expected to issue a directive to this effect soon.

But, they can still take an interest in sports by accepting appointments as patrons or advisers.

The objective

Sources said the directive is necessary because Ministers and the heads of State governments will not be able to perform their Government duties effectively if they are bogged down by active involvement in sports associations.

"It is also to avoid embarrassment to these leaders should there be keen contest for such posts."

By **TONY MARIADASS**

said an informed source.

"This will also prevent misunderstanding and strained relations among them in the administration of their sports bodies. MM 4 MAR 1985

"Although there is no directive yet, there was a recent understanding that the Ministers and heads of State governments who are already holding posts in sports bodies should not seek re-election when their terms expire."

An indication of the move was evident at yesterday's fourth biennial general meeting of the Federal Territory Football

Association (FTFA) when a Minister and two Deputy Ministers declined re-election.

They were Foreign Minister, Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen, Deputy Finance Minister, Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong and Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government,

Dr Tan and Mr Subramaniam were appointed advisers.

Tengku Rithaudeen is also the vice-president of the Football Association of Malaysia but will continue until his term expires.

The ban will affect several sports bodies. Heading the list is the FAM and the State FAs.

In the FAM, besides Tengku Rithaudeen, there is Datuk Sabbarudin Chik, the Deputy Finance Minister, who is an independent council member.

The State FAs which have Menteri Besar at the helm are: Perak (Datuk Ramli Ngah Talib), Selangor (Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Haji Mohamad Ali), Negri Sembilan (Datuk Mohamad Isa Dato Abdul Samad) and Johore (Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad).

Datuk Seri Mohamad Adib Mohamad Adam, the Minister of Land and Regional Development is Malacca FA's president.

Among the other associations which will be affected are athletics (Datuk Dr Tan — MAAU vice-president) and cycling (Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad — FT Cycling Association president).