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Muhyiddin-badminton

LET PROFESSIONALS TRAIN ON THEIR OWN, MUHYIDDIN TELLS BAM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- The Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) should not force Nusa Mahsuri's professional players to attend centralised training for the Thomas Cup, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

"There is no hard and fast rule on where or how we should conduct our preparation...whether under one or two roofs. What is important is the training," Muhyiddin said after a press conference on the National Sports Convention here.

He said he asked BAM President Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan this morning how the national body was going to solve the controversy over conducting centralised training.

Muhyiddin said he advised Abdullah Fadzil to find ways to settle the problem fast and amicably, adding that not much time was left as the final round in Hong Kong will be held in May.

Nusa Mahsuri, who contribute all four singles players for the Thomas Cup squad, are reluctant to join camp on grounds that it will disrupt the players' training under coach Misbun Sidek. Centralised training was supposed to kick off today with a motivational camp.

Muhyiddin said the BAM President assured him that he would call all the parties concerned to iron out any problems.

"They (Nusa Mahsuri) have their own pride...they want to prove they can develop good singles players with their own programme," Muhyiddin said.

He said Nusa Mahsuri should be given some room to prove their stance with some assistance or monitoring from BAM, adding that Nusa Mahsuri coaches have stated that they could succeed with their own training.

Muhyiddin said national players should be given encouragement to motivate them and not subjected to things that could affect their morale or offend them.

"There should be no mandatory training...that is my personal opinion. But I hope both parties can find an amicable solution, taking the national interest into account," he said.

On the convention, Muhyiddin said about 250 people from the sporting fraternity, government agencies, private sector and the media would take part in the three-day conference in Langkawi from April 11.

He said the convention, to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will touch on various aspects of sports development in the country. Local and foreign speakers have been invited for the convention.

"I am sure the Prime Minister will give his opinion on the direction of sports in the country. He is very concerned with our performance in the SEA Games and also the discipline of our athletes," Muhyiddin said.

He said it was time the government, sports associations and individuals sit together to evaluate the success and failure of sports in the country and find ways to make them more proactive.

"We are serious about this and I can assure you that we will look into all aspects highlighted at the convention. We certainly don't want to get opinion and do nothing about it," he added. -- Bernama

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