

13 MAR 1996
Discipline-sports
PM ISSUES REMINDER ON SPORTS DISCIPLINE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated that Malaysian athletes should have better discipline following his observation of the recent Le Tour De Langkawi cycling championship.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Dr Mahathir expressed concern on the discipline of athletes at the weekly Cabinet meeting today.

The Prime Minister remarked that athletes in all sports, including badminton and football, should be instilled with strong discipline to achieve high international standards.

"Dr Mahathir is keeping a close watch on the sporting activities here following his observation of foreign participants during the cycling championship," Muhyiddin told reporters after visiting the national hockey team in training at Stadium Tun Razak here.

Dr Mahathir was patron of the world-class cycling event which began and ended in Langkawi but took the riders through all states in the peninsula.

Muhyiddin said a National Sports Convention would be held in Langkawi next month to deliberate on all matters related to sports, including discipline and attitude of athletes and officials.

"We hope to come up with a module for every sport, athletes and officials to adhere to," he said.

On hockey, he said the National Sports Council (NSC) will allocate RM3.8 million in the next four years for the national under-16, 18, 21 and the senior teams to prepare for the 1998 Commonwealth Games here.

He said the hockey squad preparing for the Atlanta Olympics in July should be more motivated to achieve their target of finishing in the top six.

Malaysia finished ninth in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) Deputy President Datuk P. Alagenda, who briefed Muhyiddin on the team's preparation, said they will play two test matches with Australia. There are tentative plans to have three similar matches with Germany before the Atlanta date.

He said Holland, India, Britain and South Korea had been invited for the Sultan Azlan Shah International Invitational in Ipoh from May 4 to 12.

Alagenda said six juniors will join the current 23 seniors in training before the final squad of 16 were picked for the Olympics.

At a news conference later, Muhyiddin said he will closely monitor the progress of work to build facilities for the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

He urged contractors to try and finish the projects as soon as possible.

"If the facilities are ready early then we have the time to fine-tune or test the facilities. Our athletes will also have the chance to get used to the facilities," he said.

By the second half of next year all facilities should be ready except the main stadium at Bukit Jalil, near here, he said.

"The construction of the main stadium is still within the timeframe given to the contractors. If the contractors have any administrative problems, they should inform us immediately," he said. -- Bernama

DC YBY