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Muhyiddin - Act

TWO-TERM LIMIT FOR OFFICE BEARERS IN SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS

By: Arul Rajoo

LANGKAWI, April 12 (Bernama) -- The government is studying the possibility of imposing a two-term limit for office-bearers in sports associations, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

"Problems in sports associations is caused by weak leadership as well as office-bearers hanging on to their posts for too long. The limit to their tenure may be included under the provisions of the Sports Development Act which is being drafted," he told reporters, here.

Muhyiddin said Thailand's Sports Act limited the tenure of such office-bearers to two terms and they had to obtain the approval from the Sports Minister if they wanted to continue.

He said if the regulation became a reality, it would cover all sports bodies including the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) adding views from all parties would be taken into account before the move was implemented.

Opening the National Sports Convention, here, yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said among the factors which led to decline of sports in the country was friction and bickering in sports associations as well as sports leaders holding on to their posts for too long and lacking vision.

Muhyiddin said the fatigue faced by local sports was due to lack of attention by affiliates and he felt that sports associations were unlikely to amend their respective constitution to limit the tenure of the office-bearers.

"Usually the president does not attend general meetings and only sends his representative. Manipulations will occur...for example there are 15 representatives and those out to win will look for only eight," he said.

On the Sports Development Act, Muhyiddin said he had directed the ministry's officers to finish drafting the Act by next month and he expected it to be tabled at the next parliamentary sitting.

"We will obtain the views of the OCM and sports associations before the draft is submitted to the Cabinet. But so far we have not received any feedback on it," he said.

However, Muhyiddin gave an assurance that the government did not plan to use the Act to interfere with the running of local sports associations but instead it was to facilitate sports development in the country.

He said the Act would enable the government resolve crisis in troubled sports associations which affected the athletes' preparations for any tournament.

Asked whether the government would withdraw the Act if participants at the convention rejected it, Muhyiddin said no.

"We want to ensure that the people's money is well used and there are no malpractices. We have no problems with the OCM and do not plan to take over their function," he said.

Muhyiddin also said he disagreed with the suggestion that the Sports and Youth Minister be made the supreme sports leader since the task was the responsibility of the sports leaders.

He said what was needed was to correctly fix the roles of the OCM and the National Sports Council (NSC) to ensure no overlapping which could create disputes. -- BERNAMA

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