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Muhyiddin-Leave

THOSE INVOLVED IN YOUTH PROGRAMMES MUST BE GIVEN LEAVE

KAMPUNG GAJAH, June 22 (Bernama) -- A majority of private firms in this country are reluctant to release their employees to participate in youth and sports programmes unless the employees use their annual leave.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said some company managements contended that by allowing the workers leave the companies' productivity would be reduced and refused to consider that the programmes were for the good of human development.

The problem had been dragging for so long and to improve the situation, the ministry planned to call private sector employers and explain to them the programmes, he told reporters after opening the state level premier youth leadership convention here, today.

Muhyiddin said the ministry could only appeal to the employers to cooperate because there were no laws that could force them to let their workers go on unrecorded leave to participate in youth programmes.

He said the objective of the youth programmes was to sharpen talents in leadership and management of individuals and associations for the good of the nation in the long term.

When asked on the lack of voluntary spirit shown by the people including youth organisations, he said the ministry would be launching the volunteer programme in August.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to launch the programme to select 30,000 voluntary workers for several social programmes, he said.

He said the volunteers' major contribution would be to help out in the management and smooth-running of the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

For this purpose the ministry would register 50,000 people from all ethnic groups and vocations to be trained in security, protocol and catering work in several local universities. -- BERNAMA

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