

13 APR 1996

Muhyiddin-television

TV CHANNELS EXCLUSIVELY FOR SPORTS

LANGKAWI, April 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia might have more than one television channels for sports in a move to improve the standard of sports in the country, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to the setting up of the special channel which would probably operate 24 hours and free of charge.

Muhyiddin said private television station, TV3 wanted to set up such a channel and had sought assistance from the ministry.

"I've discussed the matter with the Prime Minister and he agreed. The government acknowledges the strong influence of the media and this should be taken advantage of for the development of sports," he said here.

In fact, he said, Dr Mahathir felt more than one TV channels could be set up to provide wider coverage of sports.

But Muhyiddin said no decision had been made as to who would be given the exclusive rights to set up the channel since RTM had also expressed interest in the matter.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat had said recently that RTM would introduce a sports channel.

"I don't want to support anyone but hopefully they could work together to make the programme a success," said Muhyiddin.

On the national sports complex under construction at Bukit Jalil, he said the government decided to privatise it to ensure that it would not become a white elephant.

"The Economic Planning Unit will handle the matter. The cost of managing it will definitely be high and we need those expert in event management," he said.

--Bernama

AR ABG