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Sukma-Muhyiddin

STATES TOLD TO DRAW UP EIGHT-YEAR SPORTS PROGRAMME

SHAH ALAM, April 20 (Bernama) -- State governments should plan for at least eight years ahead when implementing sports development programmes to help improve the standard of sports, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He also urged state governments to play a more proactive role and avoid implementing short-term programmes like those aimed solely at the biennial Malaysia Games (Sukma).

"The government through the National Sports Council is willing to cooperate to enhance the long-term development of sports," he told reporters when visiting several venues of the 7th Sukma here.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's message in the 7th Sukma souvenir programme which said the government wanted to see the big investments in sports development result in better performances by Malaysian athletes at the international level.

Muhyiddin said the ministry was still not satisfied with the athletes' achievements although there had been noticeable improvements in the past two years.

"The Jaya '98 project has resulted in improvements, especially in sports like shooting, bowling, squash, weightlifting and badminton," he said.

"Athletes should not just strive to win medals but should also aim to break records," he said.

-- BERNAMA

APG YBY