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Sports-Muhyiddin (Endurance)

INCENTIVES FOR ENDURANCE SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- The government will give incentives to Malaysians who bring glory to the nation in endurance sports, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

This followed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for Malaysians to participate in tough and endurance sports, Muhyiddin said.

The Cabinet agreed that such efforts which reflected self confidence and willingness to battle the odds should be appreciated and remembered, he told reporters here.

Over the past years, Malaysians managed to meet tough challenges including the climb up the world's tallest peak, free fall over the north pole and the expedition on foot to the Arctic.

The latest was the solo circumnavigating round the globe effort by Datuk Azhar Mansor.

Muhyiddin said the next challenge was the expedition down to the Antarctic.

He said the incentives could be in the form of cash, medals and scholarships.

"It can also be in terms promotion where we will recognise their achievements and pay ex-gratia in case of deaths, lost of ability while attempting the endurance sports especially those acknowledged by world sports bodies," he said.

Muhyiddin said a committee chaired by him and comprising representatives of the finance and education ministries, Public Service Department and private sector would draw out the guidelines for the accreditation of Malaysians' achievement in such sports.

The programme would run along the lines of the Malaysia Boleh concept, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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