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Bigger rewards for associations

THE Cabinet is extremely pleased and this means sports associations who enjoyed tremendous success in the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games can expect a higher than expected reward.

The Cabinet, during their weekly meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, decided that this was in line with the commitment shown by the associations in producing results in the Games.

"The reward is an acknowledgement of the excellence shown by several associations in the Sea Games. It is a one-off payment and above the existing incentive schemes," said Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein after chairing his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

"Furthermore, we found that certain associations who did extremely well had not received as much funding as certain other associations but they still did better. The Cabinet feel they should be rewarded for this."

Hishammuddin cited the Amateur Swimming Union of Malaysia, the SRA of Malaysia and the Malaysia Karate-do Federation as associations who had done very well.

Under the National Sports Council's incentive scheme, associations will receive RM500 for every gold medal won.

"While the amount hasn't been decided, the associations will get more from this one-off reward."

As for the athletes, the 111 gold medals won is likely to cost the NSC RM555,000.

"We are still calculating but the amount will be somewhere around there."

Athletes who won gold in individual events will be rewarded RM5,000 each while athletes who won in events that had five or more will each get RM1,000.

A further RM1,000 is awarded to athletes who set new Sea Games records while coaches receive RM1,000 for producing gold medallists.

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