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SEA-Hishammuddin (Athletes)

DON'T BE DISTRACTED, SAYS HISHAMMUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein has reminded the Malaysian contingent to the SEA Games not to be distracted by petty matters.

It was understandable for the athletes to feel pressured at this stage but they should remain focused on doing the nation proud, he said.

"This is important to preserve the country's image and for the athletes to do well. If you have any grouses, keep them until the SEA Games is over," he told reporters after presenting prizes for the 21st SEA Games computer image contest here today.

He said the athletes were on an important mission and pressure was part and parcel of the game.

"If they cannot take pressure, I don't think they can compete effectively. I believe they can take the advice in the right spirit," he said when commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's address to the Malaysian contingent yesterday.

The Prime Minister urged the athletes to fully concentrate on the Games and not to be bothered by petty problems that could affect their spirit and focus.

"We should focus on winning, other matters are irrelevant. Other matters have no place at all until the competitions are over," Dr Mahathir said.

In the contest, Yong Toh Kong, 29, walked away with the first prize of a multimedia computer.

Meor Sony Hermi Sapelin, 24, was second and Azmi Mohd Idris, 26, was third.

-- BERNAMA

SHS YBY