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Sports-Athletics (Aidid)

FORGET THE PUNCH-UP, AND GIVE YOUR BEST, WATSON TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Sprint ace Watson Nyambek, who has been hogging the headlines for the wrong reason, has been told to produce a scorching run this weekend to regain respect.

Malaysian Amateur Athletic Union (MAAU) president Datuk Syed Mohammed Aidid Syed Murtaza said the Negeri Sembilan Open in Paroi would be a good venue for him to make amends.

"I am confident Watson can live up to our expectations and those of fans. My advice to him is to give his best and regain the respect of others," he told reporters here today.

He said Watson should not be bothered by the possible disciplinary action that might be taken against him for his punch-up with coach Hanapiah Nasir last March 20.

"Athlete selection and disciplinary action are two different issues. An elite athlete must be able to take the pressure," he said.

Watson is expected to be challenged by national teammates Hamberi Mahat, Tan Kok Lin, Nazmizan Mohamad and Azmi Ibrahim in Paroi.

Syed Aidid said several athletes from Germany and Kazakhstan would also be there to push local athletes to the limits.

"This meet is among several championships we are using to gauge our athletes' progress for the SEA Games this September," he said.

He said any national athletes wishing to skip the meet should inform MAAU coaching committee chairman Kamaruddin Maidin of the matter.

Aidid also said he would table a report on the Watson-Hanapiah scuffle at the MAAU Council meeting on April 30.

Watson and Hanapiah might be recalled to give further testimony, he said.

The punch-up occurred at a meeting between MAAU officials, coaches and athletes at the National Sports Council in Bukit Jalil.

-- BERNAMA

HRS DC YBY