

11/03/2001

Task force to steer SRAM

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THE SRA of Malaysia (SRAM) have formed a seven-member task force committee to ensure that their targets until 2006 are effectively achieved.

The committee, known as the Project 2006 Committee, will be headed by former Asian Squash Federation (ASF) president Mokhzani Mahathir.

It will monitor the planning and execution of the project.

The other members are national director of coaching Mej (Rtd) S. Maniam, SRAM executive director Kol (Rtd) Wong Ah Jit, qualified international referee Azan Yaacob, former SRAM treasurer Mark Toh, Ong Khai Hock, father of Asian champion Ong Beng Hee, and National Sports Council representative M. Venugopal.

SRAM have given the committee the green light to execute their plans during their management meeting on Friday.

Wong said Mokhzani's experience with ASF and his close links with SRAM and the national players will make him an asset in the committee.

"Although Mokhzani is no longer with ASF, we do not want him to 'disappear' from the squash scene. We felt the Project 2006 Committee will be an avenue to utilise his expertise," said Wong in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

"Our function is to ensure the targets of Project 2006 are achieved and to do this, the committee will have to keep a close watch on the junior players at State level as well.

"The committee will also contribute in various areas and seeking minor sponsors is one of them."

Project 2006 is a six-year plan drawn up by SRAM to ensure the national men's and women's senior squads are ranked among the top four in the world.

The other objectives of the Project are to groom Ong and Nicol David to become world senior champions by 2006 while Malaysia are expected to be the best at junior level.

Mokhzani was pipped by ASF vice-president N. Ramachandran during the association's biennial election in Chennai, India two weeks ago.

This appointment will give him the opportunity play a significant role in the development of Malaysian squash.

In order to give his full commitment to the six-year project, Maniam who initiated the programme, has resigned from his post as ASF director of coaching.

"The committee will also function as a think-tank to contribute ideas in achieving our goals.

"We will also review the performance of the players and coaches and recommend changes if there are problems."

Apart from approving the formation of the committee, SRAM have also decided to offer scholarships to the national players to further their studies when they retire.