

Aidid to meet Zabri on Monday

By Gary Mark Nagan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. The fate of the much troubled Malaysian Amateur Athletics Union (MAAU) will be resolved before Feb 16.

MAAU, who are faced with either suspension or deregistration pending the decision of the Sports Commissioner, will have one last chance to plead their case when their president, Datuk Syed Aidid Syed Murtaza, personally meets Sports Commissioner Datuk Mahamad Zabri Min here next Monday.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein confirmed that they have received the reply to the show cause letter served to MAAU on Jan 21.

Zabri, when met at the post-cabinet meeting today, said that there were two factors that made him

want to meet Syed Aidid.

"I would like to give him an opportunity to explain what he could not express in his reply to the show cause letter.

"Secondly, we are still open to suggestion and I would like to get more information from him as we do not want to be seen as invoking Section 20 of the Sports Development Act 1997 at the slightest excuse," he said.

Under Section 20 of the Act, the Sports Commissioner can suspend or revoke a sports body if the situation warrants it.

Following procedure, once the decision is made by the Sports Commissioner, MAAU will have 30 days to appeal.

Zabri also met with the Task Force last night to get their views on the reply letter but declined to reveal further what transpired in that meeting.

Hishammuddin added that the Sports Commissioner will decide on the judgement and every party will be given room to state their opinions as the Sports Commissioner's office has to be seen as open to solutions in resolving this problem.

On the supposed memorandum sent by MAAU to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Hishammuddin said then it will involve him directly if that happens.

"There is no mechanism for MAAU to bring their problems to other parties, they have to use the procedures that are in place," he said.

On whether other troubled sports associations might face the same motions that MAAU are going through, Hishammuddin clarified that it will depend on the situation as MAAU has been gripped with problems for a long time.