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Sports-Takraw  
14 TEAMS IN KELANTAN OPEN C'SHIP

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- Fourteen teams will take part in the Kelantan Open Championship at the Sports Council Hall in Kota Baharu on July 4-7, said the Malaysian Sepaktakraw Association (PSM).

PSM competition's committee coordinator Mahathir Mohamad said the championship was the first of the three-leg Perilly's National Sepaktakraw Grand Prix (GP) Circuit.

The second-leg would be in Kedah on July 31-Aug 4 while Negeri Sembilan would host the GP finals on a yet to be decided date, he told reporters at the draw for the Kelantan Open, here today.

He said sponsorship problems forced the PSM to hold only three GP tournaments this year apart from the Khir Johari Gold Cup last June 5-9.

Mahathir said last year, Perilly's spent RM1.2 million on seven GP tournaments as against only RM250,000 for the three GP circuits and Khir Johari Gold Cup tournament this year.

He said from this year, all GP tournaments would use the double knockout system in the preliminary rounds and sudden death in the later stages.

All state teams except Negeri Sembilan and Sabah would be competing in the Kelantan Open along with Police and Armed Forces.

Teams in Kelantan Open  
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Pool A: Selangor, Pahang, Police, Kedah, Perlis, Sarawak and Perak.

Pool B: Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu, Armed Forces, Penang and Melaka.

-- BERNAMA  
ZAS AKT ZUL