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Aidid to appeal to Minister

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MALAYSIAN AAU president Datuk Syed Mohamad Aidid Syed Murtaza (pic) said he would write to Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein to appeal against the suspension imposed on the national body by the Sports Commissioner on Feb 28.

Speaking at a packed press conference in Penang yesterday, Syed Aidid said he would also make an appointment with Hishammuddin for a dialogue with the MAAU council members.

"We will hear from him the reasons for suspending MAAU," he said.

Prior to that, Syed Aidid said he would also convene a meeting with the council members to discuss the fate of the organisation.

Citing his hectic business commitment as reasons for the delay in responding to the suspension, Syed Aidid showed no emotional signs and in fact described it as a normal challenge for him.

"It has been two rough years since I took office.

"And I have been blamed many times for the problems arising in the MAAU but I am taking it as a challenge and I looked forward to it as a reinvention of the MAAU.

"But then the Minister has rightly pointed out that the problems at the MAAU have gone on far too long.

"Besides he has said that the suspension should be viewed as a step taken by the Government to put right so many wrongs in the association," said Syed Aidid.

Asked if he would quit as president following the suspension of MAAU, Syed Aidid said he felt that there was no necessity.

"In fact, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told me 'you hang on' during the Kuala Lumpur Sea Games flag presentation to the athletics contingent last year.

"But as I had said before, I am willing to step down if I'm a hindrance," said Syed Aidid.

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