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Hishammuddin slams MAAU for memo to PM

S. Selvam

SPORTS Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, irked by the Malaysian AAU for sending a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has an advice for them - go through the proper channels.

"If they cannot understand the rules and regulations, as provided for by the Sports Development Act 1997, how can the administrators of MAAU run the organisation?" Hishammuddin asked.

"They (MAAU) are entitled to send the memorandum to the Prime Minister. In fact, he listens and receives all kinds of memorandums.

"But as far as I am concerned, everything has been done in accordance with the law and if the MAAU leadership cannot understand that, how can they run the organisation," asked Hishammuddin after opening the Motor Sports Convention in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

As such, Hishammuddin has advised MAAU to study the Act and follow the proper channels to solve the current predicament faced by the beleaguered association.

The MAAU sent the memorandum to the Prime Minister's office in Putrajaya yesterday.

MAAU, under Section 20 of the Act, is facing suspension or deregistration by the Sports Commissioner as the Sports Ministry attempts to put athletics back on track again.

After the dismal showing in last September's Sea Games, and more importantly, the intense politicking and mud slinging among its officials and with the National Sports Council, a Task Force was set up to find a cure for the ailing sport.

And from its findings, Sports Commissioner Datuk Mahamad Zabri Min is looking at two options - suspension or deregistration.

"I have been informed by the Sports Commissioner that MAAU will be issued a show cause letter today (yesterday). This is provided for in the Act and they have two weeks to explain why they should not be suspended or deregistered," said Hishammuddin.

"The Sports Ministry has strictly adhered to the policies and provisions provided for in the Act and I've not been hasty or impartial in my decisions."

Hishammuddin, however, added that at this stage (show cause letter), he is not involved in the process as all the correspondence goes through the Sports Commissioner.

"At this stage, I'm not involved but MAAU can forward their appeal once a decision has been made."

On his advice to Zabri to postpone the MAAU biennial general meeting on Feb 24, Hishammuddin said that the majority of the complaints on MAAU have been in the electoral process, hence his advice to Zabri.

"A lot of the issues raised have been pertinent to the electoral process and how it is manipulated to put certain officials in office.

"As such, it will be prudent on the part of MAAU to postpone their BGM. And we would like to resolve the problems in MAAU once and for all."

And it looks as though the show cause letter is a mere formality before a decision is made to suspend or deregister MAAU.

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