

22/09/2002

Honing basketball skills and promoting unity

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Schoolchildren in the Ampang Jaya constituency are responding to the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for excellence in sports in his Budget 2003 speech yesterday by taking an active part in sporting activities.

In the latest development, students from nine secondary schools in the constituency will hone their basketball skills besides helping promote greater racial integration through the 3-on-3 basketball project.

MP for Ampang Jaya and Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat launched the multi-racial 3-on-3 basketball project at Sekolah Menengah Pandan Indah (SMPI) today.

"This pilot project will take eight months to complete. The teams from the individual schools will then compete in an inter-school tournament.

"The tournament will be extended to all secondary schools in Selangor and subsequently all over the country in the next two years."

The tournament, called the Piala Perpaduan Ong Tee Keat, is organised by the Ampang Jaya Public Services Centre, Persatuan Sosial Titik Pertemuan and Yayasan Bakti Nusa.

Ong said under the project, ex-national captains would conduct 3-on-3 clinics.

The schools will then form a basketball club and prepare teams for the tournament.

"The team must include at least one non-Chinese player."

He said the emphasis on the development of school sports activities in the constituency was also aimed at combating social ills.

Ong added that the Indah Sports project launched earlier this year at SMPI to develop badminton, basketball, volleyball, athletics and table tennis among students, was progressing well.