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Sports-Hishammuddin (MAAU)

MAAU SHOULD USE EXISTING CHANNELS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Amateur Athletics Union (MAAU) have been advised to use existing channels in the Sports Development Act 1997 to resolve their problems without involving other parties.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the MAAU's plan to send a memorandum to the prime minister to look into the decision made by the Sports Commissioner was not a wise move.

"The prime minister is always open to suggestion, views or memorandums, but if they (MAAU) are blind to the existing act, how can they correct the act which had been stipulated for the organisation and their union.

"If this is ignored, I advise them to look at the existing channels and use them. I don't discriminate.

"Because I implement them myself based on existing acts and regulations. And I will carry it out without discrimination," he told reporters after opening the National Motorsports Convention 2002, here today.

Two days ago, the MAAU Council decided to send a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to look into the decision of the Sports Commissioner to de-register or suspend the MAAU's registration.

Sports Commissioner Datuk Mahamad Zabri Min was earlier expected to announce the action to be taken against the MAAU, based on the proposal by the Task Force set up under the Youth and Sports Ministry to correct the condition of national athletics.

Under Clause 20 (2) of the Sports Development Act 1997, the Sports Commissioner, before revoking or suspending the registration of any body under sub-Section 20 (1), must give the sports body concerned an opportunity to give reasons, if any, to object to the proposed revocation of suspension.

Hishammuddin said the MAAU had a grace of two weeks to submit their report on the show-cause letter issued by the Sports Commissioner.

"At this stage (the show-cause letter is issued), the minister is not involved...but after that they can appeal to me as Youth and Sports Minister," he said.

Under Clause 21 (1), any sports body that is not happy with the decision of the Commissioner can appeal to the minister on the decision of the Commissioner within 30 days of the date of notification of the decision, the Minister's decision on the appeal is final.

Meanwhile, MAAU president Datuk Syed Mohamad Aidid Syed Murtaza when met here today said the MAAU would still send the memorandum to the Prime Minister as it was a unanimous decision of the Union made at its Council meeting on Saturday.

"For the moment, I have not received anything from the Sports Commissioner...including the show cause letter. After receiving it, I will study the matter before taking any action.

"We will send the memorandum to the prime minister today or tomorrow. The union is not facing any problem actually...the problem arises because of the action of a small group of officials within the MAAU," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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