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PM: Sportsmen lack discipline

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysian sports failed to shine because the country's sportsmen lacked discipline.

Despite huge funds provided by the Government on development of sports and efforts to inculcate fighting spirit and healthy living among sportsmen, the Prime Minister lamented many chose to disobey rules and lacked discipline.

One example is the national badminton team which he felt failed because the players had no discipline.

"They did not want to attend centralised training. They had become such great names that we could not direct them to do this or that. This is the attitude," the Prime Minister said when asked to comment on the three sepaktakraw players sent home from the Asian Games in Busan after testing positive for morphine.

Dr Mahathir stressed that one needed to be disciplined if he harboured any intention of becoming a champion.

One example that could be studied, said Dr Mahathir, was the success of the South Korean football team.

He said the Koreans were noted for their discipline, and the football team was no exception unlike the situation in Malaysia.