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NSF straying from its objective

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THE National Stud Farm (NSF) seems to be losing its objectives, direction and purpose of the whole set-up that was first initiated by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman who had set a vision to see Malaysia being able to produce reasonable racehorses.

Of course if our current respected Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is a keen horse lover, shows his interest, NSF can only improve by leaps and bounds. If the vision of Dr Mahathir to see Malaysia producing its own national car and having the tallest building in the world can be realised, definitely having a reasonable thoroughbred horse industry is a simple task to be achieved.

But, our NSF is not setting foot on its right direction yet. We are way behind India in horse breeding and soon Thailand will overtake Malaysia in producing reasonably good horses.

NSF for its Nov 23, 2001 sale, as published in its catalogue "Incentive races and Malaysian bred premium for the MRA 2002/2003 racing season" to further promote NSF graduates especially for Malaysian breds by dangling a carrot of three kilogrammes allowance for NSF Trophy and NSF Challenge Cup.

This definitely has been used by NSF officials to lure buyers to support local breds. However, the NSF Trophy race was run without the 3kg allowance as it was a race, restricted to three-year-olds of the 2001 Sale.

The same mistake was again repeated in the NSF Challenge Cup, which was run last Saturday in Kuala Lumpur, opened to three-year-olds and above sold at the NSF sale. The rationale for not giving Malaysian breds allowance of 3kg is because the racing calendar of southern hemisphere horses starts from Aug 1.

Horseracing as from day one has a racing calendar from January to December. Champion trainers, jockeys, apprentices and owners are year in and year out honoured according to the lunar calendar.

It does not make sense that the racing calendar of the National Stud Farm starts from Aug 1 as it was blindly clear that the incentives are for the 2002/2003 racing season.

It was a case where a mistake was made but we cannot cover up mistake with another mistake and vary terms and conditions.

It is widely rumoured that the NSF Wira Malayssia Cup, scheduled for Aug 18 will be run on Nov 10 switching with NSF Silver Bowl scheduled for Nov 10. These two races are over different distances under different conditions.

NSF which has published in its catalogue stating confirmed race fixture have a morale obligation to owners and players of the industry in sticking to its fixtures. We should not allow fickle mindedness to overrule the event for whatever objectives.

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