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Separating portfolios not the answer

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QUALITY administrators, rather than a ministry solely for sports, is what Malaysia needs in its bid to attain sporting excellence.

While a Sports Ministry will result in better focus, BA of Malaysia (BAM) president Datuk Nadzmi Salleh believes that separating the Youth and Sports Ministry will serve no purpose if the administrators don't take their jobs seriously.

Nadzmi said the effectiveness of the ministry depends on the capability and seriousness of its leaders.

"The main issue here is the seriousness and capability of the people who run the Youth and Sports Ministry," said Nadzmi yesterday.

"You can have one ministry as long as it has effective and creative managers to run the administration.

"Having two ministries may be good in the sense there will be more focus on both sectors. But what if the officials are not qualified to run the ministry?

"In the private sector, performance is result-oriented but it is much more complicated in public administration."

Larut, Matang and Selama FA (LMSFA) president Datuk Abdullah Hishan Hashim has suggested that sports be accorded its own ministry seeing how it has grown over the last few years.

However, Nadzmi does not believe that a separate ministry can help if the leaders do not have the creativity to implement new plans and programmes.

FA of Malaysia (FAM) vice-president Datuk Seri Dr. Ibrahim Saad echoed the same sentiments and called for better administration in the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Ibrahim stressed that what is needed is for soul-searching by sports associations and the ministry.

"I think youth and sports go together. Just because we have not been successful in the Asian Games and a few other sporting events, it does not mean that we must over react," said Ibrahim.

"All sports associations and ministry officials must look at what has been done and what went wrong. They must do some soul-searching.

"At the moment, finger-pointing between the ministry and sports bodies has become a habit and this must change."

SRA of Malaysia (SRAM) acting president Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir and Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) secretary Datuk Sieh Kok Chi said earlier that youth and sports are inseparable.

However, OCM president Tunku Imran Tuanku Jaa'far and Malaysian Hockey Federation (MHF) deputy president Tan Sri P. Alagendra are in favour of a separate ministry for sports.