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Sports-Badminton (Coach)

I CLICK WELL WITH MISBUN, SAYS HAFIZ

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Newly-crowned All England singles champion, Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, acknowledged that Misbun Sidek's coaching methods have suited his game well.

"Whatever Misbun told me to do, it suits my style of play," he told reporters at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa here today.

Asked on the major aspect which Misbun had emphasised on, Hafiz said it was discipline as according to the coach this was the key to international success.

Hafiz said his next target was to win the singles crown in the World Championships to be held in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena, the scene of his All England triumph.

"My ultimate aim is to win Malaysia's first badminton gold medal in the (2004) Olympics," he said.

The shuttler's father, Hashim Ikhsan, 67, said some form of incentives was needed to spur the young national athletes to achieve international glory but the quantum should not be "too overwhelming".

Hashim was commenting on the recent statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who called on the state governments not to spoil world winners like Hafiz by giving them too much incentives.

He said if no incentives were given, chances that the particular athlete would feel demoralised and thought that his sacrifices for the country were not being appreciated.

Meanwhile Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat urged youths in the state to emulate Hafiz's effort in bringing glory to the nation.

"Instead of loafing, better for them to do something beneficial for the country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ZI MNR BD ZUL