

09 FEB 2003

Hishammuddin-Cyclists

MINISTRY PLANS TO SEND CYCLISTS TO EUROPE FOR EXPOSURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- The Youth and Sports Ministry plans to send cyclists abroad, particular to Europe, to gain experience and better exposure in cycling sport.

Its minister, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the only way to promote national riders in the sport was to expose them to the various championships and good training programmes.

He said the best exposure could be gained in Europe and many riders were of the opinion that lack of good exposure was one of the weaknesses among the national riders.

"But it (the exposure) must involve training by a truly credible team capable of raising the performance of our young riders to a higher level," he told reporters at Dataran Merdeka, here as soon as the Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) concluded here this evening.

The race, which was telecast live by RTM, ended with a prize giving ceremony by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Hishammuddin said the championship proved that the country's young riders had no qualms about competing with anyone.

He also said that what was important was the riders' commitment and determination to win.

"I hope those who are interested, whether private companies, the National Sports Council or the cycling associations themselves would strive to bring out the talents among young Malaysians," he said.

Hishammuddin also expressed the desire to see more Malaysian youths participating in the LTdL in future.

-- BERNAMA

AZH HS AO