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MNCF going against its own regulations

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THE Malaysian National Cycling Federation (MNCF) is going against its own regulations by inviting First Cartel Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Wan Lokman Wan Ibrahim into its council, and is also dragging itself into a sticky situation by questioning the Le Tour de Langkawi's (LTdL's) accounts.

In response to deputy president Datuk Naim Mohamad's statement that MNCF was willing to offer him a place in the federation's council, Wan Lokman said he isn't interested.

Wan Lokman also said, as the organisers of the LTdL, First Cartel isn't answerable to MNCF, and will only report to sponsors and its patron, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I certainly cannot hold any position in MNCF because I am not a member of any of their affiliates. That is part of their own regulations. I believe MNCF too can get sponsors because there are many companies around," said Wan Lokman.

Naim said the offer was to enable Wan Lokman to look into MNCF's accounts and also to prove the federation's transparency.

Naim had said that First Cartel should also explain how it spent the RM18 million acquired from sponsors for the LTdL.

"I have never questioned MNCF's accounts as it isn't my right. What I give them is their's and I am not asking what they are doing with it nor am I going to report my accounts to MNCF because I am not obliged to," said Wan Lokman.

"Looking for sponsors is not easy because you have to convince and satisfy them in order to gain their support. In fact, Proton had indicated their interest in supporting the development of cycling," said Wan Lokman.

That, said Wan Lokman, came about prior to this year's LTdL, when Proton chief executive Tan Sri Tengku Mahaleel Tengku Ariff, in the presence of Naim, said that the national car manufacturer would be glad to back the development of cycling since what they spent on the LTdL was only a small portion of their annual advertising, marketing and promotions budget.

For the record, Proton is now a major player in the local cycling industry as it manufactures the T-Bolt and T-Sprint bicycles, which are used by the national team.

"All Tengku Mahaleel wanted was a good proposal to be handed to Proton, one that would show that the grassroots of the sport is being tapped and a strong base being built. MNCF should have worked on that."

"The LTdL accounts are reported to sponsors and the reason why sponsors are backing the event is because they are satisfied with what they see. The MNCF can do the same for their events and we would all like to see that happens because it can only help the growth of the sport," said Wan Lokman.

Today, Gamuda Eagle Tour of Malaysia (GEToM) organisers Clear Mission Sdn Bhd, also helmed by Wan Lokman, are organising a trial race in Bagan Lalang, Selangor to select 15 cyclists to be absorbed into a RM200,000 training programme funded by it and run by the Kuala Lumpur and Selangor CAs.