

BUDGET WINNER FROM PM

NSAs welcome 'tax exemption' to boost Malaysian sports

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THE Malaysian sports fraternity yesterday gave the thumbs-up to the government's move to introduce "tax exemption" to encourage the involvement of the private sector in sports.

Prime Minister Datuk Anwar Ibrahim, under Budget 2023, has announced a "tax relief" of up to 10 per cent of aggregate income to individuals or companies that contribute to non-profit organisations with sports development programmes.

The government will also provide a matching grant of RM50 million to encourage private sector sponsorship, especially for unity-based sports and organisation of national-level competitions.

Anwar also announced an allocation of RM324 million for the development of a comprehensive sports ecosystem from talent search to podium events, as well as maintaining and upgrading sports facilities.

Olympic Council of Malaysia president Tan Sri Norza Zakaria said he is glad with the government's decision to formally involve the private sector in sup-



(From left) OCM president Tan Sri Norza Zakaria, Karate Federation president Datuk Nur Azmi Ahmad and Wushu Federation of Malaysia president Datuk Chong Kim Fatt.

porting Malaysian sports.

"I had said before that relying on government funding 100 per cent is not healthy, and the government's announcement for the budget is a breath of fresh air.

"This is a budget that covers a few elements, it covers athletes, former athletes and inclusion of the private sector by tax deductions and matching funds.

"I see the 10 per cent tax relief or deduction from the private sector being a start, and I hope the percentage will increase in the future."

Malaysian Karate Federation president Datuk Nur Azmi Ah-

mad said: "This is a good initiative from the government... all the National Sports Association (NSA) could be funded well.

"I believe this is the first time a percentage of the tax exemption is announced by the government. This is good news and I hope the tax deduction reaches the state sports associations as well.

"The state sports associations are the ones who struggle for funding, so this announcement could help them."

Wushu Federation of Malaysia president Datuk Chong Kim Fatt said "10 per cent" tax deduction is a good start to encourage the

involvement of the private sector.

"We can accept the tax deduction, sport is not cheap at the elite or high-performance level, so we need the involvement of the corporate sector," said Kim Fatt.

"Ten per cent of an aggregate income of a company or individual is not much, but we understand that the country is coming off the Covid-19 pandemic, so it's tough for companies to support the sports industry.

"This 10 per cent could be a starting point and further increased in the future to be more helpful for the sports sector."