

Incentives, Medals Of Athletes Who Failed Anti-doping Tests Will Be Withdrawn - Ahmad Shabery Bernama February 11, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The cash incentives and gold medals awarded to the national 4x400 quartet who tested positive in the sample A anti-doping screening during the SEA Games last year, will be withdrawn if their B samples are also confirmed positive, said Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

"I am still awaiting for the official result from the Olympic Council of Malaysia with regards to the B samples. I am rather disappointed to know through the media that both tests were positive. However, I have not received the official report from the council," he told reporters at the ministry's Chinese New Year open house at Stadium Putra, Bukit Jalil here Saturday.

Yesterday, the local media had reported that the B samples to tested positive and the quartet risked sanction as per Sea Games Federation (SGF) regulations.

Last December, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had presented the gold medal and a cash incentive of RM5,000 each to the quartet comprising Muhammad Yunus Lasaleh, Sehzuhan Ahmad Rosley, P.Uvaraaj and S. Kannathasan at Stadium Juara, Bukit Kiara.

Ahmad Shabery said the ministry would not hesitate to take stern action against the four once the result was confirmed.

"But it should not be seen as victimising the athletes as they had the right to explain to the council and Malaysians as to how it could have happened. Doping is a grave offence and brings shame to the country," he stressed.

On a proposal to have the 24-year-old Kuala Lumpur Velodrome in Cheras demolished and replaced with an international standard indoor velodrome, Ahmad Shabery said the matter would be raised with the Cabinet as the latter would involve a cost of RM80 million.

The Malaysian National Cycling Federation has proposed that the site of the Kuala Lumpur Velodrome be used for other development as it is prime land in the city and in return a new international standard indoor velodrome be built in the federal capital.

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