

Khairy says leaving K-Pop concert issue to Ahmad Shabery
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Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has decided to leave it to his predecessor to explain the RM1.6-million sponsorship issue of the K-Pop concert for the World Youth Day celebrations last year.

He said this was because Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek was the minister in charge when the concert took place last year.

Khairy also said that his response – that the ministry had paid for the concert – was based on information he obtained from the ministry.

The controversy began when the 2012 Auditor General's Report stated the Youth and Sports Ministry paid RM1.6 million to bring three K-pop groups to Malaysia for the celebrations. It went against what ministry officials had maintained, that sponsorship money covered the costs.

Khairy, who took the helm in May, said the ministry had paid for the concert after the AG's report was presented in Parliament.

Even after that, Ahmad Shabery insisted the ministry had received RM20 million from domestic and foreign corporate sponsors for the event.

The AG subsequently said this was not brought up by ministry officials when the audit was being done. – October 10, 2013.

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