

RM145 Million Allocation Is Proof Government Wants Malaysia To Be 2017 SEA Games Champion

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- An allocation of RM145 million to prepare athletes for the SEA Games and 2017 Asean Para here shows the government is focused on the target of becoming overall champions.

National Sports Council (NSC) director-general Datuk Ahmad Shapawi Ismail said the specific allocation and recognition would spur MSN to work harder to prepare the best training programmes for the athletes.

"The 'We Are Champions' programme, which was launched by the Youth and Sports Ministry, has identified almost 800 athletes for the first phase offered and they will train full time for the purpose.

"Meanwhile, the paralympic athletes will begin their preparation next year for the 2017 Asean Para," he told Bernama, here, today.

Malaysia would host the 29th SEA Games which is scheduled to take place from Aug 19 to 31 here. In addition, Malaysia would also host the 2017 ASEAN Para Sports.

"The National Sports Institute should be more prepared to realise the nation's hope that the national athletes achieve greater success at a much higher level than the SEA Games, namely the Olympic Games," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when tabling the 2016 Budget, allocated RM242 million, involving RM145 million to prepare national athletes to face the challenges of the 29th SEA Games and the Ninth ASEAN Para sports in 2017 here.

In addition, RM75 million was allocated to turn out world class athletes via the Podium Programme and RM22 million to build two sports complexes in Bagan Datoh and Kuantan.

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