

# PM: Use Sukma to break regional sports records

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**ALOR STAR:** Young athletes participating in Sukan Malaysia (Malaysia Games) should try to break regional records so that the national event will gain international recognition, said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Sukma athletes should target to break SEA Games and Asian

Games records.

"Sukma will only be an event to be reckoned with when our athletes start breaking international records," he said when closing Sukma XI at Stadium Darul Aman here last night.

Noting that national athletes and those who participated in international meets were not allowed to participate in Sukma, Abdullah called for a new method to measure performance according to individual capabilities.

He suggested that different sets of prizes be given so that national athletes and those who had participated in international meets were not barred from participating in Sukma.

"We want Sukma performance to continue improving in line with our national agenda to develop sports," he said.

Abdullah also called on the army and the universities to send their contingents to the next Sukma in Terengganu.

"We have sports facilities in army camps where the athletes can practise. We want them (army personnel) to be good athletes," he said.

Abdullah also called on the Higher Education Ministry to look into organising inter-university events to select athletes for Sukma.

"Like athletes, I want everyone in the community to also excel.

"We want farmers, workers, students, and others in the community to

excel in their respective fields," he said.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Wira Azalina Othman Said said a Sukma conference would be organised to find ways to improve the events.

"We have organised this event for 22 years but petty problems still exist," she said, adding that RM59mil had been allocated to improve sports facilities nationwide.