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KOTA KINABALU: Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah is not about to hit back after being described as irresponsible by Cebagoo FC club president Mohd Joh Wid following his shock resignation as head coach of the State's sole FAM Cup representative.

Instead, he is sticking to his guns that his sudden departure from the Sepanggar-based outfit was purely based on his desire to fully focus on his job at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) where he is the varsity's Sports Unit director.

In an email yesterday, Asyraaf stated: "I have resigned as the head coach of the Cebagoo FC. I have tendered my resignation on February 25. The team management has already accepted it."

On why he opted to call it a day in managing the team, Asyraaf said he has not comment apart from wanting to focus on his role with UMS.

"I have laid the foundation of the team, and I wish them all the best in their Premier League 2015 mission.

"At the same time, I also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the club management for giving me the chance to coach the team since December 2013.

"Based on my observation, I can see that there are several quality players in the team such as Mohd Azuan Khan. These players if properly groomed can be good players. Young players

Asyraaf sticks to his guns

like Mohd Azwan Abdul Fattah and Mohd Marwan also have good potentials, and if they are willing to work hard, they can do well in the sport.

And Asyraaf said the partnership of former State striker Razlan Oto and Juffrey Omopor is still lethal and will be a big asset for the team in their FAM Cup challenge that kicks off on March 9:

On Friday, Joh did not mince his words when he lashed out at his former head coach cum manager for his action by describing the latter as irresponsible.

David @ Ayman Abdullah, who assisted Asyraaf before his resignation, has been named as the caretaker coach while Asri Abd Mali has been appointed as the new team manager.

For the record, Asyraaf is no stranger to the State football or futsal scene.

In 2009, he was named as the

State Premier League caretaker coach, succeeding Iraqi Wathiq Naji.

Earlier in 2005, he coached the State Under-19 squad to the quarter-finals in the national competition, and also guided the State Reserve League squad to the last eight in the President's Cup challenge the following year (2006).

He twice brought the State futsal team to the grand finals in 2007 and 2009 as well as UMS FC women's team in 2010 and 2012.

He also once coached the Malaysian Universities futsal team, and is a FA of Malaysia License A holder.

Prior to coaching, Asyraaf was also once a national referee, and among the coaches from Malaysia to have attended the international football course organised by the England FA at the Centre Lillshall in London for a month.



ASYRAAF ... remains a cool head.



JOH ... lashed out at Asyraaf.