

# Drastic hike in sporting events

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The number of approved sporting events and licence applications from sport organisers across the country from 2012 to 2018 increased 1,156 per cent.



Azri

Assistant Sports Commissioner, Mohd Azri Abdul Rahim, said in 2012 there were 38 licence applications and 41 sporting events that were approved, while in 2013 there were 24 licence applications and 30 approved sporting events. In 2014, there were 34 licence applications with 42 approved events and in 2015 there were 49

applications and 44 events. However, in 2016 the number went down to 35 applications and 38 approved events. In 2017, the number doubled to 69 applications and 67 approved events.

In 2018, the number increased dramatically with 483 licence applications and 508 sporting events that had been approved.

He said the Sports Commissioner Headquarters Office also received 1,147 applications from sport organisers throughout Malaysia to organise sports event as of Aug 31, this year.

"If you divide the amount by eight you could see that there are over 100 sporting events organised every month in this country. This shows that the sports sector is growing and contributing to the econ-

omy," he said, adding that the growth of the sports sector in the country can boost tourism and transportation.

However, the department has yet to release the statistics for sporting events and licence applications in Sabah and other states.

"Sabah could generate income from sport tourism as it has many interesting places with beautiful nature and it is one of the states that has organised sports event regularly, he said.

According to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, Sabah has already hosted a few international sport events such as the Borneo International Marathon, Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon and TMBT Ultra Trail

Marathon.

"By organising such events, we can find someone who has the ability and talent in running. We can help them to be a good athlete," he said.

Mohd Azri said sport organisers who do not comply with the rules and regulations set by the Sports Commissioner's Office this year can expect a warning. The grace period will last until Feb 28, 2020.

"Those who do not follow the rules after the grace period face a fine of up to RM500,000, 12 months jail or more," he said.

He was speaking at the 1<sup>st</sup> Malaysia's Runner Convention 2019 Programme in UMS, Thursday. The two-day programme was attended by 80 sports organisers across Malaysia with six speakers to share their expertise in sport.