

Preference for local coaches

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Youth and Sport Ministry (KBBS) strives to reduce dependency on foreign coaches because it involves huge expenses.

Its Permanent Secretary, Mohd Yusrie Abdullah, said the dependency on foreign coaches, for the long-term, actually do not give profit to the State.

"Therefore, it is better for us to produce world-class local coaches," he said at the closing of the Sport Science Level II Course, National Coaching Certification Scheme (SPKK) 2019, held at the Faculty of Psychology and Education, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here Friday.

The six-day course under the National Coaching Academy (AKK) was organised by the National Sport Institute (ISN) with the collaboration of State Sport Council (MSN).

"Qualified and experienced coaches are presently greatly needed to coordinate various training programmes at all levels, especially at the school-level.

"To me, a course like this is vital and the best platform for uplifting the sports glory in our country, because it is meant to train, equip and increase the knowledge of coaches in the field of sport science.

"Apart from that, it will give exposure on how sport science knowledge can advance and increase the performance and achievement of sports in the country,"

he explained.

The course was participated by 41 participants from throughout the State, including seven school teachers, 27 participants from various fields and six MSN appointed coaches and trainee coaches, as well as a special athlete (OKU) coach.

"I am pleased with the great participation, it is a good sign that our sport industry is developing from time to time, in line with rapid development of sports worldwide," he said, adding every knowledge garnered in the course is part of the government effort to produce more local coaches who dare to make changes.

He said the participation of Sabah's weightlifting athlete, Aricco Jumitih, who won Gold in the Commonwealth Games New Delhi 2010 also showed former national athletes also have the opportunity to serve as a professional coach through such a course.

Mohd Yusrie said the Ministry, through MSN, is always attentive and working hard to enhance the knowledge of coaches in line with technology advancement in the coaching field.

On the issue of politics in sports associations, he said he will not hesitate to take action according to the capacity and power of the Ministry on any associ-



Yusrie presents a certificate to head participant Isidore Amin.

ation or officer in association involved in association politicking to the extent it cause chaos in the association or bias in terms of athlete selection.

State Sport Council Director, Mohd Asneh Mohd Noor, AKK ISN Officer, Sharifah Amilia Syed Abd Hamid, UMS Head Coordinator of Physical Fitness,

Prof Dr Dg Maryamah Ag Daud, UMS Sport Science Lecturer, Dr Mohd Nizam Nazarudin, MSN Assistant Director (Event Management), Valerie Wong, MSN Assistant Director, Heirwan Shah Masari, as well as MSN Sport Coordinator Officer, Christle Easter Michael, among others, were also present.