



Welson hopes to secure the Olympic 'A' mark in the 1,500m freestyle at the Mare Nostrum Circuit final leg in Barcelona.

## ► SWIMMING

# Pray for me, Malaysia

THE MALAY MAIL (M/S) 50

3 JUN 2016

**KUALA LUMPUR** — The national swimmers are ready for their final Rio Olympics qualifiers when the Mare Nostrum Circuit (Monaco — Canet Roussillon, France — Barcelona, Spain) kicks-off tomorrow until June 12.

Welson Sim, Phee Jinq En, Khoo Cai Lin, Wong Fu Kang and Erika Kong are the national swimmers who will jet off to Europe on Wednesday, with Welson looking to clock a third Olympic 'A' ticket in 1,500m freestyle.

"My aim is to notch another A time in this circuit. It will be tough, but I need to believe I can make it," said the 19-year-old, who secured two tickets to the Olympics in the

200m and 400m freestyle at the Singapore National Age meet in March.

Welson, who made the B time in the 100m and the 1,500m freestyles had also gone to Australia for a training stint on May 14 with Jinq En and is hoping that experience will rub off in Europe.

The Sarawakian, who would be vying for a 1,500m Olympic 'A' time at the final leg in Barcelona was also not fretting about the outbreak of the Zika virus which has plagued host Brazil.

"I will not be pulling out and am eager to make my Olympics debut. Please pray for me Malaysia," said Welson.

The first leg in Monaco will start on June 4-5, followed by Canet (June 8-9) and lastly Barcelona (June 11-12).

The 'A' time holders get their direct entry to Rio while the B holders will need to wait for the final list to be released by the International Swimming Federation later this month.

The other swimmers who made the cut are Kevin Yeap (400m freestyle), Yee Zheng Yang (200m freestyle), Welson (100m freestyle), Fu Kang (100m breaststroke), Chui Lai Kwan (50m freestyle), Cai Lin (400m freestyle) and Phee Jinq En (100m breaststroke) for women.



# TVET bantu negara atasi masalah pekerja mahir

BERITA HARIAN (Mskl...)

3 JUN 2016

Mengikut prinsip sektor pekerjaan dalam negara maju, asas pembangunan ekonomi pelbagai sektor datang daripada tenaga pekerja berkemahiran tinggi.

Mengikut teori keusahawanan berasaskan sumber, pekerja berkemahiran tinggi dilihat sebagai sumber penting dalam membangunkan produk dan menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan firma yang terlibat dalam perniagaan berteraskan teknologi.

Soalnya sekarang ialah adakah benar pekerja tempatan agak culas hingga menyebabkan kebergantungan kepada pekerja asing selama ini?

Memang benar dan ada asasnya betapa luahan Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi yang menggesa pelbagai sektor pekerjaan negara perlu diisi pekerja mahir tempatan. Negara yang mencapai tahap kemajuan tinggi turut mempunyai produktiviti pekerja yang juga tinggi seperti Amerika Syarikat, Jepun dan Jerman.

Modal manusia iaitu tahap pen-

didikan mempunyai hubungan langsung dengan produktiviti pekerja dan seterusnya dapat menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi. Lantas, strategi Malaysia untuk meningkatkan pertumbuhan ekonomi adalah dengan melahirkan lebih ramai tenaga kerja berpendidikan dan berkemahiran tinggi, terutama dalam bidang latihan teknikal dan pendidikan vokasional (TVET) melalui pembangunan sumber manusia.

## Peningkatan enrolmen

Keadaan ini dapat dilihat melalui peningkatan enrolmen pelajar di Kementerian Pendidikan yang menyasarkan peningkatan keseluruhan 650,000 pelajar dalam program TVET menjelang tahun 2025.

Isa selaras dengan Lonjakan Keempat dalam Pelan Pembangunan Pendidikan Malaysia (Pendidikan Tinggi) 2015-2025, PPPM (PT), untuk meningkatkan graduan TVET berkualiti. Melalui peningkatan kapasiti TVET, penulis mendapati kerajaan bersungguh-sungguh menyasarkan 2.5 kali ganda peningkatan keseluruhan enrolmen TVET kepada 650,000

pelajar menjelang tahun 2025, di mana 300,000 daripadanya didaftarkan dalam program di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan.

Di Jerman, negara itu sudah bermula dari peringkat sekolah rendah atas (kalau di Malaysia pada tahun 5 dan tahun 6) sebelum pengkhususan bidang bagi pelajar bermula dari menengah rendah (dari tingkatan satu). Inilah kejayaan berpanjangan negara Jerman yang berteraskan pekerja tempatan berkemahiran tinggi sejak 100 tahun dahulu.

Malaysia sebenarnya boleh mencapai dalam tempoh yang singkat, kurang dari 50 tahun, dengan mempelajari dari negara maju ini. Sebab itu, generasi muda juga harus diberi kesedaran bahawa TVET turut menjanjikan peluang kerjaya yang luas dan mampu memberi pulangan lumayan.

## Tingkat kemahiran pelatih

Kolej komuniti, kolej vokasional dan politeknik perlu diberi ruang dan kepercayaan dalam kalangan masyarakat berdasarkan upaya kolej itu menyediakan pendidikan tinggi TVET terbaik bagi mening-

katkan kemahiran pelatih seiring keperluan industri serta menambah peluang kemajuan kerjaya.

Sudah tentu enrolmen program TVET juga akan berkembang dengan ketara menerusi kerjasama dengan pihak industri bagi memastikan penawaran benar-benar memenuhi permintaan. Seiring dengan itu, inisiatif utama pihak industri ialah merangka dan melaksanakan model kurikulum baharu serta meningkatkan kualiti penyampaian menerusi program perantisan, latihan amali, simulasi dan latihan khusus.

Malahan penambahbaikan juga membabitkan penyelarasan dengan pelbagai agensi penyedia TVET bagi mengurangkan pertindihan program, mengoptimum sumber, membolehkan pengkhususan dalam bidang kepakaran dan meningkatkan kecekapan kos.

Yang pasti dalam tempoh terdekat ini, Malaysia akan kurang kebergantungan dengan pekerja asing, malahan boleh berbangga kerana memiliki pekerja mahir tempatan termasuk mempunyai pasaran antarabangsa.

## Komentar



**Ahmad Fauzi Mustafa**

Ketua di Pusat Penyelidikan Media Strategik (MINSTRA)

(GAMBAR HIASAN)



Fakta  
nombor

650,000  
SASARAN

pelajar TVET



# Chong Wei bawa bendera negara

Oleh MUHAMMAD HELMEE RAMLI

**J**AGUH badminton negara, Datuk Lee Chong Wei dilantik sebagai pembawa Jalur Gemilang pada upacara pembukaan Sukan Olimpik Brazil Ogos depan.

Presiden Majlis Olimpik Malaysia (MOM), Tan Sri Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar berkata, bekas pemain No. 1 dunia itu wajar diberi penghormatan untuk membawa bendera Malaysia pada temasya berprestij itu.

Selain itu, ia juga mampu menjadi suntikan motivasi buat Chong Wei dalam memburu pingat emas pertama negara pada temasya sukan terbesar dunia itu.

"Saya fikir Chong Wei dia layak diberikan tanggungjawab untuk menggalas tugas ini kerana dia merupakan salah seorang ikon sukan di negara ini.

"Saya juga berharap ia mampu menjadi pembakar semangat buatnya dan saya juga melihat dia sebagai seorang pemimpin," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas mempengerusikan mesyuarat Ahli Lembaga Eksekutif MOM di Kuala Lumpur semalam.

Sebagai rekod, Razif Sidek merupakan pemain badminton terakhir yang diberikan penghormatan membawa Jalur Gemilang pada Sukan Olimpik 1992 di Barcelona.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Presiden Persatuan Badminton Malaysia (BAM), Datuk Seri Mohamad Norza Zakaria percaya pemilihan tersebut merupakan satu galakan buat Chong Wei.

"Memandangkan ini adalah kali pertama atlet badminton layak dalam semua acara, jadi saya fikir dia layak mengetuai kontinjen negara pada acara pembukaan.

"Selain itu, Olimpik kali ini juga mungkin merupakan Oli-



CHONG WEI menggalas tanggungjawab membawa Jalur Gemilang pada upacara perasmian Sukan Olimpik Brazil Ogos depan.

mpik terakhir buat dirinya selain mampu menjadi suntikan semangat buatnya," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, MOM juga bersikap terbuka sekiranya ada atlet negara yang tidak dapat menyertai

acara pembukaan itu nanti. "Sekiranya mereka perlu meneruskan latihan untuk memantapkan prestasi, saya tidak kisah jika mereka tidak menyertai acara pembukaan," kata Tunku Imran.



# Has austerity drive been ignored?

THE MALAY MAIL (M/S) 48

3 JUN 2016

## LEVEL FIELD

TONY MARIADASS

**HAVE** the cost-cutting measures sought by the government earlier this year been taken seriously by sporting bodies?

All the signs point to the contrary. To make matters worse, money is being spent on measures of little importance to the community.

The tax-payers' money is for training, medicine, supplements, sports science, coaches or anything related to producing champions, especially for the Rio Olympic games or even the SEA Games next year which Malaysia is hosting.

But when the National Sports Institute (NSI), in a hushed manner, unveiled a new logo last Friday in a hall enveloped in black cloth for a "night atmosphere", one was left wondering, was the new logo meant for the betterment of NSI?

What matters is the service the body can provide athletes and while the present logo is a registered trademark and won't cost much to register, the rebranding exercise certainly will.

Changes will have to be made to everything — from letterheads, corporate shirts and T-shirts, standees and logos on NSI ambulances to the NSI logo on official letters, documents, calling cards and so on dealing with the many other sports associations.



**The new NSI logo (left) means unnecessary spending of taxpayers money.**

It's possible that newly-appointed NSI chief executive officer Dr Mohd Khairi Zawi and his deputy Ahmad Zawawi Zakaria want to start afresh with a new logo they both designed, to leave their "legacy", but this looks a wrong call.

The unveiling of the logo was supposedly a "pot-luck" affair with staff members paying a minimal sum, according to their rank, for the catered food. In turn, the paying members were given the event's T-shirts.

More surprisingly, the two senior officers had their offices renovated, replacing the carpet with parquet flooring, painting the walls black and installing large mirrors. This seems like a total waste of precious funds, especially when NSI have had their budget cut over the last two years.

Their staff strength has also been reduced, with many long-serving



temporary employees having their services terminated.

It is also learnt the protein supplies for the athletes has been cut because NSI does not have sufficient funds.

Meanwhile, holding workshops at holiday resorts was also questionable, especially when the cost-cutting measures clearly states that government facilities have to be used for such purposes.

The consumption of food and beverages plus the use of bunting and banners during conferences, seminars, meetings, courses, workshops and other official functions have to be reduced. The same applies to engaging event management firms and the handing out of door gifts or souvenirs during events.

All these rules are in place to help attain maximum benefit from the limited funds available to NSI.

It will be interesting to see how much is spent on the Malaysia Games (SUKMA) in Sarawak next month. Will there be a lavish opening and closing ceremonies?

It is only an outing for junior athletes and thus should be kept simple. But this has never been the case for almost all previous Games hosted so far.

Malaysian sports seriously needs to cut out the frills and extravaganza and just stick to its core necessities. Money meant for sports should be used only for sports and its improvement, and not to create a circus of sorts.

Without doubt, the money allocated for sports is huge despite the cutbacks, but it cannot be channelled into the wrong hands and areas.

Countries with lesser financial allocations for sports and limited facilities, technology, expertise or science have done better than Malaysia.

So, the question that needs to be asked is, where have we gone wrong and how can we address it properly and urgently?

If not, we will continue wasting millions of tax-payers ringgit with no results to commensurate the money spent and lost.

It is time for stock-taking and put Malaysian sports back on the right path — which is a long shot but nothing ventured, nothing gained!

**TONY is a sports journalist with more than three decades of experience and is passionate about local sports. He can be reached at [tmariadass@gmail.com](mailto:tmariadass@gmail.com) Twitter: [@tmariadass](https://twitter.com/tmariadass)**





► GOLF

## Kelly makes US Open cut

Kelly will be Malaysia's sole representative at the US Open after finishing first in her sectional qualifier. — File picture

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**PETALING JAYA** — United States-based Kelly Tan displayed an exquisite round of golf, scoring 67 and 68 for a nine-under 135 to qualify for her second appearance at the prestigious US Women's Open next month (July 7-10).

The result saw the 22-year-old tie first

alongside Brazil's Miriam Nagi, Sue Kim of Canada and America's Megan Khang at one of the five sectional qualifiers at the Twin Hills Country Club in Massachusetts on Wednesday.

The Johor Baru-born, whose best finish this season was tied 16th at the Coates

championship in March, will be looking to better her performance from 2014, which saw her failing to make the cut.

Kelly, who did not qualify last year will be out to flex her irons in a star-studded field that includes 2014 winner Michelle Wie, Lexi Thompson, Paula Creamer and Lydia Ko.

The CIMB sponsored golfer will, however, face a tall order to emulate Lim Siew Ai, who is the best Malaysian to fare at the major when she finished tied-49th ten years ago.

Jean Chua and Ainil Johani meanwhile failed to join Kelly after both were unsuccessful in their qualifying campaigns.

# 'Low-income urban youth at risk of being marginalised'

THE STRAITS TIMES (M/S:2)

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Youths from low-income urban families are at risk of being marginalised as they lack opportunity and resources for a better future, making it difficult for them to be on a par with their counterparts.

Cambio Group chief executive officer Dr LaMarr Darnell Shields, from Baltimore, Maryland, the United States, said these youths must be brought from the margin to the centre.

"When we discuss youth issues such as education, the young people are not at the table and often we talk at them, not to them.

"We need to create youth-adult partnerships where the adults value the voices of the youth because they know their needs better," he said during his presentation at the Permata International Conference 2016 at the Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Shields mentioned Article 12 of

the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states: "When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account."

He said among the functions that could benefit from a youth-adult partnership were governance and policymaking, training and outreach and organising various activities.

Shields also gave tips on how to include the youth, such as by treating them with respect like peers and giving them roles in community actions on critical matters.

"Collaborate with the youth, not compete with them. Stop judging young people because they understand and feel that energy."

Shields admitted, however, that the effort of getting more youths to participate was often met with resistance.

"If they are distant and do not want to participate, we have to make it personal to get them to care," he said, adding that disengaged parents had to address this.

Shields said Malaysia's commitment to empower youth should be emulated by other countries.

"In the current world scenario where youth are likely to be left behind, Malaysia has taken steps to address the problem by investing in their future through initiatives such as the Permata programme.

"In many countries that I have visited, the majority of government funds are not channelled to education and youth development, but passed over to other areas such as security."

Shields was one of the 14 international speakers, who are experts and advocates in childhood care and education, to speak at the three-day conference, which ended yesterday.



# Cabaran sebenar buat skuad negara

KOSMO (M/S. 60.)

3 JUN 2016

Oleh JALALUDDIN BAHARIN

**B**EREGU wanita negara, Vivian Hoo Kah Mun-Woon Khe Wei mengakui pentas suku akhir Siri Super Premier Terbuka Indonesia 2016 merupakan cabaran sebenar yang perlu ditempuhi skuad badminton kebangsaan.

Pada aksi pusingan kedua yang diadakan semalam, beregu itu mencipta sejarah tersendiri selepas menumpaskan pasangan No. 2 dunia, Nitya Krishinda Maheswari-Greysia Polii dari Indonesia menerusi catatan 21-17, 21-19.

Kemenangan tersebut sekali gus membolehkan pasangan beregu penghuni ranking ke-20 dunia itu mara ke pentas suku akhir yang dijadualkan hari ini.

Menurut Vivian, kejayaan menumpaskan pasangan terbaik dunia itu menjadi rangsangan semangat kepada mereka untuk meneruskan cabaran negara di peringkat suku akhir.

"Bukan mudah menumpaskan mereka. Memang perlawanan hari ini (semalam) sangat sukar tetapi kami juga bermain dengan agak bagus. Mungkin pihak lawan sering bagi tekanan kepada kami sehingga kami melakukan kesilapan mudah. Namun tuah ternyata lebih memihak kepada kami.

"Apabila sudah sampai ke peringkat suku akhir, saingan akan menjadi semakin sukar. Kami hanya akan sedaya upaya dan cuba memperbaiki kelemahan pada aksi sebelum ini," katanya ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!* semalam.

Selain beregu wanita, pasangan beregu lelaki No. 1 negara, Goh V Shem-Tan Wee Kiong turut mara ke suku akhir selepas menumpaskan rakan senegara, Koo Kien Keat-Tan Boon Heong menerusi catatan straight set 22-20, 22-20.

Mereka dijadualkan menentang pasangan pilihan kelima dari China, Chai Biao-Hong Wei pada aksi saingan suku akhir yang juga berlangsung hari ini.



GANDINGAN Vivian Hoo (kiri) dan Khe Wei meraikan kejayaan menewaskan beregu Indonesia, semalam.