

High-tech support for state swimmers

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Wee (left) with (from second left) Ong, Kameri and Kong (right) and swimmers after receiving the pacer clocks from Francis Kim (second right).

KUCHING: Sarawak swimming got another shot in the arm when the Amateur Swimming Association of Sarawak (Asas) received two sets of swimming equipment recently.

The sponsorship of the equipment in the form of two sets of pace clocks by Advance Display Technology, was jointly secured by the Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) and the Sarawak State Sports Council (MSNS) with the blessings from the Ministry of Social Development (KPS).

A delighted Asas president Dato Wee Hong Seng, who received the pace clocks from Advance Display Technology president/director Francis Kim Kok Wee, said the equipment had come at right time.

Also present were KPS permanent secretary Kameri Affandi and SSC chief executive officer Dr Ong Kong Swee.

“This is a good start for enhanced training and we are looking forward to having other component training equipment coming in,” he told the Borneo Post after a simple presentation ceremony at the Aquatic Centre, Youth and Sports Complex last Wednesday.

According to Wee, this was the first batch of pacer clocks, with one set for Kuching and another set going to Sibiu.

“We will be having the same equipment for Miri and Samarahan in due course. We want all our four elite training centres Kuching, Samarahan, Sibiu and Miri to have a common type of training facilities,” said Wee.

“I feel this is very positive move by the government, and we are not only using it to train the swimmers for Sukma but it also for long-term training for our younger swimmers,” he added.

“It is an expensive item if we are to acquire it by ourselves and it is good that KPS, SSC MSNS and can give us the necessary support and acquire sponsorships like this,” he said and took the chance to thank all the parties involved in getting the sponsorship.

“This is the kind of investments that the government should come in with and it is also helpful if the private sector can also chip in,” he quipped.

Meanwhile, Asas technical committee member Anthony Kong said pacer clocks are absolutely essential in performance training and other swimming states like Selangor, Penang and Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur already have this kind of equipment.

“In 1990 when we hosted Sukma, we had a swimmer in Tania Bugo, who was only 13 years old and she captured 13 golds. This kind of performance can never be repeated in the modern day of swimming as the country’s swimming standard has really improved by leaps and bounds over the years.”

He said pacer clock will help the swimmers to know exactly what time frame they are hitting and they can gauge their performance on every second they are doing and know what type of efforts they are putting in during their training.

“Swimmers are getting intelligent about their efforts and know how their bodies are going to respond when they are under duress and threshold training. Any swimmer who progress higher up will need to use this. They need to know their pace and race time,” he said.

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