Targeting a top-three finish

Athletes preparing well for Pahang Malaysia Games challenge in July, says MSNS chief

KUCHING: Sarawak aim to finish among the top three contingents in the Malaysia Games hosted by Pahang from July 7 to 16.

Sarawak State Sports Council (MSNS) director Francis Nyurang Ding said they were optimistic about achieving the target as the respective sports were doing quite well currently.

"Some of the elite athletes from other states are already overaged and for that reason also, we should do well in the Games," he told The Star here yesterday.

However, he said it was still too early to set a medal target as some of the sports were still selecting their athletes while some already having centralised training at centres statewide.

For example, he said, archery was having its centralised training in Lawas; wushu, silat and swimming here; and volleyball in Sibu.

Nyurang said with most of the sports already doing their centralised training, he was confident that the athletes would have ample time to prepare.

He said one week before the Games, all athletes and officials would gather for a camp at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) here. Sarawak will be fielding a strong contingent of 600 athletes to compete in 22 out of 24 sports this year.

There will be 19 compulsory sports and five optional ones during the Games.

Sarawak are focusing on events that offer the most medals such as athletics, aquatics, gymnastics, archery, shooting, cycling, wushu, karate, taekwondo, pencak silat, bowling and petanque.

The state’s athletes performed badly at the 12th Malaysia Games in Kuala Lumpur last year — the worst outing so far — winning only two gold, four silver and eight bronze medals to finish 12th out of 14 contingents.

The gold and silver medals both came from ping-pong and judo.

The latter also contributed two bronze medals alongside women’s kayak, which contributed three bronze medals, while men’s futsal coughed up one.
Back then:
Sarawak judokas celebrating their medal haul at last year's Games in this file pic.