ASTAKA set to have its own training, competition centre

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Sepaktakraw Association's (ASTAKA) dream to have its own building for training and competition may soon become a reality.

Its president Datuk Haji Awang Sham said they are currently collaborating with University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in realising their goal.

In fact, he revealed that, in principle, there has been an agreement between both parties. He added that they are currently in talks with UMS about this matter, but basically, there has been an agreement between both parties. He is hopeful that everything will be settled within this year.

When they have their own training centre, it will ease their burden a little in developing the SpOIl in the state.

The main objective of the tournament is to hunt for new talent, apart from giving our youngsters the opportunity to showcase their skills in the game, he added.

He also thanked all, who have contributed towards the staging of the event, while hoping that next time around, more generous individuals, corporate bodies or companies will come forward and give them a helping hand, especially financially, as they bid to bring the SpOIl to greater heights.

A total of 16 boy and five girl teams are battling it out for top honours in the championship, which has been ongoing since Friday.

The state Sukma team are seen as the red-hot favourites for the title in the boys' category while in the girls' event, it is anyone's guess. The state Sukma girls' team are not competing as they are currently undergoing training in Thailand, preparing for the country's biggest sporting carnival.