LABUAN: Former national badminton player, Misbun Sidek urged parents to encourage and polish their talented children in sport especially in badminton.

Speaking during a badminton clinic held at the hall of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Labuan International Campus (UMS-KAL) on Nov 9 to 11, Misbun told parents that their support was among the most important things in ensuring their children will be successful in sport.

"Through your support, this country will never experience a shortage of calibre badminton players at the world stage," said the former national coach. Many talented players around the country could not be trained professionally as they were not really encouraged to become players, said Misbun who is managing-director of Nusa Mahsuri Club.

He disclosed that his club had carried out 17 badminton clinics nationwide this year to spot young talents in badminton.

Misbun had trained and produced some world-class badminton players in the country including his younger brother, Rashid Sidek, Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, Roslin Hashim and Datuk Lee Chong Wei.

"A professional badminton player also can earn a lucrative income as the government is also providing some incentives for them apart from income from their sponsors," he said.

Two other former national badminton players such as Jalani Sidek and Rahman Sidek were also involved in the three-day clinic.

Other coaches from the club were Ridzuan Rahmat, Zulfari Abdullah, Shamsul Anwar Adnan and Lia Murni Misbun were also helping in training the young talents here.

Meanwhile, deputy registrar of UMS-KAL, Zamri Mohamad Tuah said the campus was ready to be a host for any sport event involving national sport icons to boost the parents' morale and support for their children in any sport field.