

**MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS
NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL
NATIONAL SPORTS INSTITUTE
THE ELITE SPORTS PODIUM PROGRAMME**

Main Points

**What we
examined?**

- The Elite Sports Podium Programme introduced by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) is a preparation programme for elite athletes to achieve excellence in national sports. The programme was launched on 2nd February 2016 and was initially run by the National Sports Institute (NSI). In 2019, there was a change of implementing agency to the National Sports Council (NSC) to ensure that athlete development can be implemented more effectively.
- The Podium Programme allocation was approved in the First Rolling Plan of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (11MP) with total cost of RM380 million. The implementation of the Podium Programme has been continued in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) with an allocation amounting to RM240 million for the years 2022 to 2025.
- The approved scope of the Podium Programme is the implementation of the Athlete Training Programme to face major sports games which include athletes management; management of coaches and support staff; management of training facilities and equipment; facility rental; domestic and foreign training exposure; athlete welfare and education programmes; and sports science and medicine services.
- This audit includes two main areas of audit, namely programme performance and programme management under NSI and NSC for the period from 2016 to 2022. Programme performance is assessed based on the achievement of output and the achievement of outcomes. Programme management covers four things, namely financial performance, coach management, sports facilities and equipment as well as storage of sports assets.
- Auditing was carried out in the Development Division of MYS, NSC and NSI. Auditing was done on 16 sports samples from the 35 types of Podium Programme sports involving 10 sports for athletes and six sports for para-athletes.

Why is it important to audit?

- The Government approved an allocation of RM620 million under the 11MP and 12MP for the Podium Programme which is one of the eight High Performance Framework initiatives created in the National Sports Transformation Plan.
- This audit was carried out to evaluate whether the management of the Podium Programme has been implemented prudently, efficiently and effectively to achieve the desired objectives of ensuring that the athletes' performance was at a high level through optimal and superior environmental management and control and bringing home the country's first gold medal in the Olympic Games and excel at major international tournaments.

Conclusion

Overall, the main objective of the Podium Programme to bring home the gold medal at the Olympic Games has not yet been achieved. The achievement of the output of the Podium Programme under ISN is good because the target of winning medals at three major sports games has been achieved. The output achievement for the Podium Programme under MSN is less satisfactory based on two out of five targets not being fully achieved. The achievement of outcomes for the Podium Programme is less than satisfactory because two were not achieved and one has yet to be achieved out of the four targets set. The management of the Podium Programme can still be improved by ensuring that expenses are made according to the approved scope, salary increases for coaches are made based on clear guidelines and criteria, sports facilities and equipment are regularly maintained and ensuring the storage of assets in a safe place.

NO.	AUDIT ISSUES	IMPACT	RECOMMENDATION FOR SOLUTIONS
1.	Expenses not within the approved scope amounting to RM1.47 million are for athletes who are not under the Podium Programme.	The utilisation of Podium Programme provisions for other programmes affects the implementation of the Podium Programme from the aspect of full-time recruitment of Podium Athletes. The channeling of grants to the National Sports Associations that train athletes not under the Podium Programme indirectly causes the expenditure of allocations provided for athletes and Podium Programme athletes to undergo training programmes and tournaments in and outside the country to be reduced.	Ensuring that Podium Programme allocations are spent according to the approved scope so that the programme can be managed efficiently and achieve its objectives.
2.	A total of five (13.9%) of the 36 samples of Podium Programme coaches have received salary increases ranging from 10% to 44% with an increase rate of between RM450 to RM2,456 for the period 2020 to 2022. However, the Audit found that the criteria regarding the rate of salary increase could not be determined because the criteria in the existing guidelines were not applied.	The approval of different percentage increases without clear criteria can contribute to dissatisfaction among local coaches.	Reviewing the Coach Salary Increment Guidelines and providing clear criteria regarding the decision of the coach salary increase rate to be more suitable.
3.	A total of 861 (66.7%) of 1,290 coaches' monthly reports were not provided by coaches. A total of 138 (32.2%) of the 413 coaches' monthly reports for the period from 2020 to 2022 did not have comments regarding the performance status of athletes in the Programme and views on whether the athletes met the Programme's requirements.	Failing in preparation of the coach's monthly report as well as the lack of athlete's performance reviews and views on whether the athlete meets the programme's requirements cause an objective evaluation cannot be done. This causes the athlete's performance to be retained in the Podium Programme cannot be determined.	A clear and organized written reporting mechanism needs to be prepared and analyzed accordingly so that monitoring the effectiveness of athlete development can be achieved.

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4.	Maintenance of sports facilities and equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of the athletic track that is worn, thinned and dilapidated. The high jump pole was damaged and the training mat was no longer suitable for athletes training. A Ridley-branded Podium Para Athlete bicycle for use in road cycling training as well as participation in major sports tournaments and games is still used by para athletes. The bicycle has suffered damage to the bicycle frame due to an accident. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inadequate of preventive maintenance and repair programme for training equipment has an impact on the smoothness of the athlete's training activities. If the same bicycle is still in use and there is an accident or further damage to the bicycle it may endanger the Para Athlete. 	Sports facilities and equipment used by athletes are regularly maintained and upgraded old sports facilities so that they are always in good and safe condition to ensure smoothness of the athlete's training activities.
5.	A total of four bicycles and four accessories (box bikes) for use by Para Podium Athletes are placed in an open space at the Malaysia National Velodrome, which is where the athletes from other programmes undergo training. In addition, bicycles and bicycle equipment have been placed at the Sub Switch Board (SSB)/Distribution Board (DB) space.	Storage of bicycles in open areas exposes to the risk of loss. Bicycle storage placed in the Sub Switch Board (SSB)/Distribution Board (DB) space prevents electrical maintenance work and is dangerous for operators. In addition, it may cause a risk of electric shock and fire hazard.	Sufficient and safe space and storage to keep sports assets.