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Passion alone is not enough

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**Passion alone
is not enough**

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SOME things don't change.

What drove Sheik Alau'ddin to two World Silat Championships gold medals in 1990 and 1994 was passion – plain and simple.

Now the Singapore Silat Federation (Persisi) chief executive director, he said: "If you ask Jasmine (Yeong-Nathan) if money motivated her to the World Cup title, she will definitely tell you no.

"When you go into sports, it cannot be because of money."

But there are some things which have to change, according to Sheik.

If an athlete makes it to the top, but misses out on the monetary incentives because the competition is not listed in the Multi-Million Dollar Award Programme (MAP), then the relevant parties have to take it upon themselves to see that the athlete is fairly rewarded.

Said Sheik, who did not receive any monetary incentives when he twice became world champion: "The point I'm trying to make is that an athlete cannot go into a sport expecting financial rewards.

“But when they make it, we have to ensure that he or she gets the deserving reward.

“Hopefully, the Singapore Sports Council (SSC) can come in. If not, the national sports associations (NSAs) should look into it.

Sheik feels that the best solution is for the SSC and NSAs to sit down and discuss the issue at length.

Blueprint

He added: “It’s about time we come up with a blueprint and list out the other competitions that deserve to be included in MAP.

“But we have to be careful about the world champion tag.

“How many countries take part in it, what is the standard of competition, and is there prize money involved?

“The monetary reward has to be on a case-by-case basis, not a common figure across the board. Then, it will be fair.”

– GARY LIM



YOU CAN DO IT!

Sheik Alau'ddin (below, left) giving Imran Abdul Rahman some advice when he was a coach.

***“Why can't we
take part in
sports just for
the sake of
sports?”***

**–Low Teo Ping,
Singapore Sailing president**

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“An athlete cannot go into a sport expecting financial rewards. But when they make it, we have to ensure that he or she gets the deserving reward.”

– Sheik Alau'ddin, chief executive director of the Singapore Silat Federation

More on this issue in tomorrow's paper