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Why some Malaysian core sports fail

WHY do some Malaysian core sports fail? If you're willing to strip away all the excuses, explanations, rationalisations, and justifications for some of our core sports failures, and to be brutally honest my own personal analysis as a former national athlete, I would find the plausible reasons — weak, power-crazy, egoistic leadership, lacking talent development at the grassroots level, failing continuity in producing champions like Datuk Nicol David (squash), Datuk Lee Chong Wei (badminton) or Sazali Ahmad (body building).

I've often said real sports leaders refuse to take the credit for success, but there are a handful who will always accept responsibility

for their failures and step-down but you can count with your fingers how many overstay in spite of the criticism hurled at them for reasons listed below.

1. Lack of character: It doesn't matter what your title is, if you don't do the right thing for the right reasons, you will fail. Sports leaders who fail to demonstrate a constancy of character won't create trust, won't engender confidence and won't create loyalty.

2. Lack of vision: It is the role of the president's of 57 National Sports Associations (NSA's) failure to clearly define and communicate the association vision with actionable initiatives. If there is no vision,

a flawed vision, or a poorly communicated vision, the responsibility falls squarely in the lap of executive committee. Moreover, if the vision is not in alignment with the association values there will also be troubled waters ahead.

3. Lack of execution: Everything boils down to execution, and ensuring a certainty of execution is job number one for the various committees. The president and his NSA leadership team who don't focus on deploying the necessary talent and resources to ensure that the largest risks are adequately managed, or that the biggest opportunities are exploited have a leadership team destined for failure.

4. Flawed strategy and poor fund management: A flawed strategy simply reveals weak leadership. While there are exceptions to every rule, sports associations tend to succeed by design and fail by default. Sports leaders must deploy and manage funds with responsibility and not to squander them as we have seen in some of our NSA's association when there is no proper check and balance by the Sports Commissioners Office.

Majulah Sukan Untuk Negara.

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