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Golf academy to train local manpower

SINTOK: The Youth and Sports Ministry will launch the golf management skills academy in the near future to develop further the golf sports industry and train local manpower in the industry.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said the ministry had opted to set up the academy at the premises of the Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam (KGPA), Bukit Kiara.

"The golf sports industry is capable of creating many job opportunities and this academy will train locals to become skilled manpower such as caddies and so on," he said when approached after the launching of the Universiti Utara Malaysia Track and Field Championship (SUKUUM) 2011, here last night.

He said the academy would churn out professional manpower in developing further the golf sports in the country as the sport had now become a growing industry.

Ahmad Shabery said the ministry might make the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) as a partner for the academy in view of the fact that the UUM had been chosen as the centre of excellence for golf sports for the universities.

"The UUM might be able to help...for example, the cost of constructing a golf course is substantial, one hole may cost RM1 million, some may cost RM3 million or RM4 million. The UUM may be able to think of a better way of constructing the course.

"Currently, the golf courses are not well managed except for private golf courses which charge playing fees. Payment is not the issue, but we want the golf industry to be well managed," he said.

Earlier, UUM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak, in his speech at the function, said the university had requested to upgrade the golf course at the university from nine holes to 18 holes so that it could achieve the objective of becoming an excellence centre for golf sports. - AFP