

# Players let off with warning

**THE** Serdang Angels and the 31 players who were absent from a friendly match involving the national team last month have been let off with a slap on the wrist from the Malaysian Rugby Union (MRU).

After a council meeting recently, MRU issued warnings to the club and the players after considering their replies to the show cause letters.

Serdang Angels were provisionally suspended last month, which saw them sit out a Super League game, for playing in Thailand last month without the sanction of MRU.

They were, however, allowed to continue competing in the league after submitting their reply to the show cause letter on Feb 15.

MRU general manager Mazuri Sallehudin disclosed that the club and the players, who were supposed to play expatriate club Kuala Lumpur Tigers in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 6, could be suspended for up to six months if they commit the same offence again.

"This case is related as many from the (31) players were with Angels in Thailand at the time.

"The rest of the players (not from Angels) claimed they had either work or study commitments while some had asked to be excluded from the national team," said Mazuri.

"We do not want this to happen again, and the players and the club have been warned that they will be given long term suspensions if they do it again."

Angels, the competitive team of Universiti Putra Malaysia, had played several games against universities in Bangkok which they claimed is part of their inter-university programme rather than a serious tournament.

The national team are preparing for the Asian Championships Division One competition in Kuala Lumpur on May 8-14. **By Fadhli Ishak**