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DO NOT RAISE TRIVIAL ISSUES OF OVERCOMMONWEALTH GAMES, SAYS DR M

Mahathir-Sukom

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised those entrusted with organising the Commonwealth Games in 1938 to concentrate on just that and not raise trivial issues.

+The important thing is for us to make adequate preparations for the Commonwealth Games,+ he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council at the party headquarters here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the reported dissatisfaction of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) with regard to statements made by Youth and Sports Minister Senator Annuar Musa on preparations by Malaysia to host the games.

One of the issues was the announcement on the appointment of former Chief of Defence Forces Jen (B) Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sukom, the corporate body which will organise the games.

The OCM was reportedly shocked at what it felt was premature announcement of the name of the chief executive which it said was contrary to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) charter. -- more

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Mahathir-Sukom 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said misunderstandings could be avoided or resolved if those involved did not bother about who was senior and junior and why one was not informed (before an announcement; was made).

+If there has been a technical error, we rectify the matter, it is not a problem,+ he said.

He said the problem with sports in the country was that the competition in the boardroom is more intense and explosive than that on the field.

On speculation in a Chinese newspaper yesterday that Sukom CEO Hashim would be appointed the Datuk Bandar of Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir said there was no such legal condition.

+But if you want to speculate, carry on. We are not angered because healy speculation is okay,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said, however, that no decision had been made on who would succeed Tan Sri Elyas Omar as the Datuk Bandar. Elyas resigned on Sept 17 after citing responsibility for alleged irregularities in the purchase of cars by Kuala Lumpur City Hall. -- Bernama