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Football-AFC
GOVERNMENT OFFERS LAND FOR AFC HEADQUARTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- The government has offered a 1.6-hectare land near the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to set up its headquarters building.

AFC secretary-general Datuk Peter Velappan said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the offer to AFC in January.

He said AFC would build the headquarters at a cost of RM16 million.

Work will start next month and the building is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

"We appreciate the courtesy of Dr Mahathir in giving us the land," said Velappan after a meeting of the AFC 19-member executive committee here.

He said AFC president Sultan Ahmad Shah would chair a special committee to raise funds for the building.

Velappan said AFC affiliates have agreed to have a permanent headquarters in Malaysia. "It is a great honour for Malaysia to have the AFC Headquarters here," he said.

Velappan also said the four-hour meeting discussed the two Asian delegates vying for a single seat in the International Football Federation (Fifa) executive committee.

The two are Qatar FA president Mohamed Hammam Al-Abdullah and Hong Kong FA vice-president Timothy Fok. The selection will be finalised at the AFC congress tomorrow.

Velappan also said Cambodia, North Korea and Yemen have lost their voting right in tomorrow's congress as they have not competed in at least two AFC-sanctioned competitions in the last two years.

The executive committee meeting, chaired by Velappan, also discussed the Asian Cup to be held in the United Arab Emirates later this year. --

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