

04 JUL 1996  
Olympic-Dinner  
GRAND DINNER FOR ATLANTA-BOUND CONTINGENT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 4 (Bernama) -- The Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM), together with AT&T Communications Services (M) Sdn Bhd, this evening hosted a grand send-off dinner for the Atlanta-bound Malaysian Olympic team as they embark on their quest for gold.

The dinner, first of a two-part AT&T in-country sponsorship programme to support the OCM, was attended by Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Datuk Loke Yuen Yow, officials of OCM and the National Sports Council (NSC) as well as representatives of the various sports associations.

During the function, each member of the Malaysian Olympic team received an AT&T Olympic send-off kit which included a guidebook, souvenirs, pre-paid phone cards and Telekom Malaysia's "Malaysia Direct Service" phone cards.

The second part of AT&T's sponsorship programme will take place on Saturday at the national colours presentation ceremony to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad which also marks the official flag-off for the Malaysian contingent.

The dinner, with the aim to raise fund for the Malaysian Olympic team, managed to raise RM65,000 through donations from well-wishers and other sponsors.

At the function, the Malaysian contingent comprising 36 athletes and 16 officials pledged to contribute RM100 from their pocket allowance towards the "Athletes Against Poverty", a fund jointly set up by OCM and United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP).

Their written pledge will be handed over to the Dr Mahathir on Saturday.

OCM president Tan Sri Datuk Seri Hamzah Abu Samah in his speech said, "By taking the initiative to sponsor a significant moment for the team, AT&T has helped to boost their spirit.

The support we received tonight from both AT&T and other sponsors reinforces the fact that the Malaysian team has the strong support of many individual, corporate and national fans". -- BERNAMA

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