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Sukma-Melaka

MELAKA TO START EARLY BID FOR SUKMA HOST JOB

ALOR GAJAH, June 7 (Bernama) -- The Melaka government will start lobbying early to host the 9th Malaysia Games (Sukma) in 2002 following the failure of its bid to hold the event in the year 2000.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani said today other states would be requested to support Melaka's bid.

"Factors which will strengthen the bid is the completion of the state sports complex in Paya Rumpit which is able to hold a major sports meet," he said after opening the Brisu Umno Division here.

Pulau Pinang has been selected to host the 8th Sukma in the draw held in Kuantan this week.

Mohd Zin said the RM206 million sports complex, jointly developed by the state government and GEAHIN Engineering Berhad (Geahin) is scheduled to be completed end of next year.

The memorandum of understanding for the project was signed here yesterday with Geahin bearing RM146 million of the cost to build the complex on a 80-hectare site.

The state government has allocated RM60 million for the project.

Mohd Zin said the state government would hand over development site worth RM146 million to Geahin in exchange for the cost borne by the developer in constructing the sports complex.

He said part of the 120-hectare original site for the sports complex in Air Keroh would be given to Geahin and the land evaluation was being made.

On the call by the DAP that the Air Keroh site be developed for projects of the people's interest, Mohd Zin said the issue did not arise since the construction of the sports complex was for the people.

The state government only relocated the site since the original location was found to be unsuitable and in the tourism and industrial development areas, he said.

Meanwhile, Mohd Zin said the collection for the Bosnian Mosque Fund had reached RM700,000.

The fund, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad two months ago is to collect RM1 million for the construction of a mosque in Bosnia-Herzegovina based on the design of the Melaka State Mosque. --

BERNAMA

MOZ ZUL AO