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Commonwealth-Facilities

NO EMBARRASSING DELAYS FOR KL GAMES, SAYS SUKOM CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Sukom 98 Berhad, the organiser of the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games in 1998, is confident all facilities and preparations for the games will be completed on time and there will be no delays that could embarrass everyone.

"It's the responsibility of everyone to make sure everything is in place by September 1998. I have full confidence in the sports associations," Sukom executive chairman Jen (R) Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali said.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was giving his personal attention to the construction of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil and had made frequent trips to the site.

Except for the outdoor and indoor stadiums that would be ready by March 1998, work on other new stadiums and upgrading of venues would be completed by 1997, Hashim said at a luncheon with the media here today.

He said Sukom has suggested that Selangor, which will replace Kedah as the host for the 1998 Malaysian Games (Sukma), hold some of the events at the venues earmarked for the Commonwealth Games.

"We can use this as a rehearsal for the Commonwealth Games to detect weaknesses. The police can monitor the traffic flow and check the efficiency of the transportation system," he added.

For instance, he said, the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system has the capacity to carry 24,000 passengers per hour whereas close to 50,000 are expected to use it after the opening and closing ceremonies.

On sponsorship of the games, Hashim said Sukom has so far achieved 42 per cent of its estimated budget of RM261 million and is confident of recording a surplus.

He said Sukom is working on a joint marketing plan with Australia to sell the games' merchandise in the country and the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has given its consent.

On the prices of tickets to various events venues, Hashim said a consumer research study is underway and the feedback from the public would be used to fix the prices.

"The prices will be reasonable...it depends on the type of sports and events taking place. There will be a lot of world class athletes taking part and I am sure the prices will be justified," he added. -- BERNAMA

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