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SUKOM-TV

SUKOM HOPES TO CLINCH DEAL WITH TVNZ ON C'GAMES TV RIGHTS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 21 (Bernama) -- Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, which hopes to secure RM75 million from television rights for the 1998 Commonwealth Games, is expected to sign a deal with TV New Zealand (TVNZ) next week.

Executive chairman Jen (R) Tan Sri Hashim Ali said today the negotiations were in the final stage, and he hoped the agreement would be signed during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to New Zealand.

The contract between Sukom and TVNZ is being drafted and it was hoped it could be finalised before Dr Mahathir's visit, he told reporters here after signing a RM1-million deal with Permanis Sdn.Bhd. appointing the company as the official supplier of mineral water for the Games.

He said: "There is a possibility of two agreements being signed. One is between RTM and TVNZ on the host broadcasting aspect and the second between TVNZ and Sukom on the television rights.

"We have not come to the final conclusion... we are not agreeable on the quantum. We have our figure and they have theirs but hopefully they will pay more than they did to the Victoria Games' organisers."

The signing ceremony between host broadcaster RTM and TVNZ would be held on March 26 in Wellington, he added.

He also said Sukom, which had already signed an agreement for the television rights with Channel Nine of Australia, are in the advance stage of negotiations with M-Network of South Africa and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"M-Network want to get the rights for the whole Africa. I hope once we clinch all the deals, we will able to reach our target of RM75 million," he added. -- BERNAMA

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