

05 MAY 1997

Annuar-Sukom

ANNUAR CALLS ADELAIDE SPORTS COUNCIL "SOUR GRAPES"

KUCHING, May 5 (Bernama) -- Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said today the Adelaide Sports Council was being sour grapes by alleging that Malaysia had used money to get to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Annuar was Youth and Sports minister when Malaysia bid in 1991 to host the Games.

Malaysia's success in the bid was because of hard work, sound strategies and full support of the government, he told reporters here.

"I personally chaired the Sukom Main Committee at the time and we worked hard going round more than 20 countries to get the support of their sports leaders," he said commenting on the allegation.

Earlier, he opened a rural development workshop at a resort in the Batang Ai hydro-electricity project area about 250km from here.

Annuar said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's personal touch, friendly approach and stature as a world leader had mainly contributed to Malaysia's success in the bid.

He said Dr Mahathir personally wrote to Commonwealth leaders for their support for Kuala Lumpur to host the Games.

Annuar said there was nothing new in the Australian allegation as Malaysia had faced similar sentiments from Adelaide immediately after winning the bid to host the Games.

"They just cannot accept a developing country like Malaysia hosting a world-class meet," he said.

He said he did go to Adelaide to view sports facilities there and found them inferior to Malaysia's.

According to him, its sports council also did not enjoy the support of the government there.

In Adelaide's case, he said, it did not even enjoy the support of other Australian sports organisations including the Sydney Sports Council which was then bidding to host the 2000 Olympiad. -- BERNAMA

OPP ARA RN