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Muhyiddin-Commonwealth

BIG QUESTION MARK OVER KL PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

By: Arul Rajoo

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today a big question mark hangs over the ability of the present Klang Valley public transport system to meet the demand for transport facilities during the Commonwealth Games here next year.

"The question is whether, when all the people converge here, the KL public transport system will be able to operate well and if not it will create problems for us," he said.

He said the Intrakota bus company has 1,500 buses and Park May 600 and there are about 11,000 taxis in Kuala Lumpur.

"Are they adequate? I cannot answer this question as we do not know the actual number of people coming to KL for the games," he said after chairing the Commonwealth Games Council Executive Committee meeting here.

Also present was the Executive Chairman of Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, Jen (Rtd) Tan Sri Hashim Ali.

Muhyiddin said the Traffic and Security Committee chaired by the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Rahim Noor expected nearly 70 per cent of the visitors to use their own transport.

He said the committee had been asked to draw up an action plan that would ensure the best possible public transport system for visitors to the Commonwealth Games.

"The committee will take into account the present system involving the KTM Commuter, LRT and the bus and taxi service," he said.

The police proposed that more people be allowed to use their own vehicles to ease the burden on the public transport system but then this would result in more parking space being found for them.

Sukom would ensure that the various competitions did not clash with the timing of entertainment events and side shows to ease traffic congestion.

Muhyiddin said the Land Transport Department (JPJ) had agreed to issue additional public transport permits early even this year so that enough vehicles would be available when the time came.

It is learnt that the LRT operating between Kuala Lumpur City and the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex could move 24,000 people every hour.

Muhyiddin also said more than 500 bill boards would be put up between now and September next year to advertise the games.

He said the Finance Ministry had allocated RM30 million to the Tourist Promotion Board of Malaysia to promote the games overseas.

He wanted efforts to promote the games to be intensified from now on.

Muhyiddin also said a study would be made in the Klang Valley on the number of available rooms or hostels for rent to Commonwealth Games visitors at budget rates.

"Not everyone can afford to stay in hotels. We have to find place where the people can stay for as low as RM10 to RM20 a night. There are such facilities, owned by government agencies, particularly in Bangi."

He said the services of foreign audio specialists would be enlisted for the opening and closing ceremonies.

He also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to the appointment of the President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah as Deputy Joint Chairman of the games executive committee. The other deputy is Hashim. -- BERNAMA

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