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Commonwealth-Complex

BUKIT JALIL SPORTS COMPLEX TO BE A TOURIST ATTRACTION

By: David Chelliah

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The government has decided to promote the new RM1.2 billion National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil, near here, as a tourist attraction and a family recreational park.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said there would be several additional facilities such as restaurants, man-made lake, jogging track, playing fields, surau and public toilets.

He said he would request the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry to include the sports complex in travel brochures.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Commonwealth Games Village and planting a tree as to mark the launch of a RM59 million landscaping project for the entire complex, he said the facilities would be added in stages.

The landscaping project will involve the planting of 9,000 trees and several thousands of shrubs. The contractor, Mercu Maju Sdn Bhd will complete the project by May next year.

Muhyiddin said the contractor would also take care of the greenery for two years.

The National Sports Complex, covering 120 hectares, comprises the National Sports Institute, National Sports Council (NSC) and stadiums for the Commonwealth Games from Sept 11 to 21 next year.

On the Games Village, Muhyiddin said the 1,400 apartment units would be ready by next month and Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, the organisers of the Games, would take charge from March.

"Sukom will furnish each unit till May. There will be five athletes to a unit. All the athletes will be housed in the Games Village," he said.

On the Light Rail Transit (LRT) which runs into the heart of the complex, he said the service would be fully operational by July and with capacity to move 32,000 passengers per hour.

He said the Games Village head who would supervise the management of the village during the Games would be appointed by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad.

"I have several names and will let PM decides," he added.

He said the ministry would also discuss in detail with Sukom Ninety Eight on the management of the Games Village including internal transportation, security, check-ins and handling of baggages.

"We must have a proper system in the Games Village for all officials and athletes to have pleasant stay during the games," he said.

About 6,000 officials and athletes from over 60 countries are expected for the Games. -- BERNAMA

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