

02 APR 1997

Sukom-Invitation

C'WEALTH GAMES: OFFICIAL INVITE OUT THIS MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, the organiser of next year's 16th Commonwealth Games here, will officially invite all the 70 countries this month to compete in the quadrennial meet.

Its Executive Chairman Gen (R) Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali said today the invitation would be sent out after a function scheduled to be graced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here on April 15.

"We will officially send the invitation starting April 15 and expect feedback by the end of the year," he told reporters after an agreement signing ceremony between Sukom and Antah Holdings Berhad, here.

He said all the 70 Commonwealth countries, a record if all participated, would be invited to make the Kuala Lumpur Games the biggest-ever in its history bringing together an estimated 6,000 athletes and officials.

Following today's agreement, Antah Holdings, a diversified group, became the seventh member of Sukom's Partners Programme and its third Gold Partner with a contribution of RM1 million.

Its chairman Tunku Dara Tunku Datuk Seri Naquiah Tuanku Ja'afar signed for Antah and Hashim represented Sukom.

The other six members in the programme are Resorts World Berhad, Sime Darby Berhad, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Ajinomoto, Island and Peninsular Berhad and Sunway.

Resorts World is the sole Platinum Partner member for having contributed RM5 million.

Gold Partners contribute between RM1 million and RM5 million, Silver Partners between RM500,000 and RM1 million and Bronze Partners between RM100,000 and RM500,000.

Platinum and Gold Partners would enjoy exclusive benefits during the Games including complimentary hosting facilities, VIP accreditation, premium tickets to the opening and closing ceremonies and official recognition of their generous contribution.

"So far, we have collected about RM30 million from this programme. We hope more companies either local or foreign will come forward to help us," Hashim said.

The Partners Programme was successfully implemented in the last Games in Victoria, Canada, he added. -- BERNAMA

HRS RN