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Muhyiddin-Games

COMMONWEALTH GAMES BUDGET TO BE DECIDED ON AUGUST 7

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- The 1998 Commonwealth Games budget will only be decided one week after all the committees involved submit their detailed budget reports, said Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said all the 15 committees and the organiser, Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, were asked to submit their reports to the finance committee on August 7.

"The budget estimated by Sukom earlier was around RM305 million based on past sporting events expenditures. We will now know the amount required by each committee," he told reporters after chairing the Commonwealth Games Executive Council meeting today.

Muhyiddin hopes that the budget will not exceed the present estimate and he asked all the committees not to be lavish.

"We do not want to spend lavishly. But we will not compromise on the standard of the presentation," he said.

Muhyiddin said today's meeting also discussed the budget to be borne by Sukom and the government and the other agencies like the police and the army.

He said the customs and immigration would have more than 600 special workers for the Commonwealth Games.

The security and traffic committee, which is chaired by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor, has submitted a detailed report on security, he said.

Muhyiddin said 3,000 medical staff would be mobilised during the games while the Doping Centre at the Universiti Sains Malaysia in Pulau Pinang is ready and is awaiting accreditation by the International Olympic Council (IOC).

He also welcomed the assurance given by Projek Usahasama Transit Ringan Sdn Bhd (Putra) that its Light Rail Transit (LRT) service would be ready before the games.

"Earlier, I was told that the LRT would not be completed in time for the games. We need an accurate report so that the information can be included in the games brochures and programme," he said.

He also said all the people involved in the games including athletes, officials and volunteers would be given free passes to use public transport during the event.

Muhyiddin said RM37 million had been allocated for the City Beautification Programme.

He said Telekom Malaysia would spend RM200 million on sophisticated equipment and cable laying work was carried out at the same time as the other sports infrastructure development.

Muhyiddin also said construction work on all the sports venues were going on according to schedule except for the main stadium which was delayed for several weeks but he was confident that it could be completed by the end of the year.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would visit the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil on August 23. -- BERNAMA

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