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Mahathir-Commonwealth

MAHATHIR INSPECTS NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the National Sports Complex and Commonwealth Games Village which are under construction in Bukit Jalil, near here, today.

Dr Mahathir was briefed by officers of United Engineers (UEM) Bhd, the turnkey contractor for the construction of the complex which comprises an open and indoor stadium, swimming complex, external infrastructure and the Commonwealth Games Village.

Present were Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Jen (R) Tan Sri Hashim Ali, executive chairman of Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games organiser and UEM chairman Tan Sri Radin Soenanao.

The complex will be used for the 16th Commonwealth Games which Malaysia will be hosting on Sept 11-21 next year.

The open stadium with a seating capacity of 100,000 is 78 per cent completed. It will have cable tensioned roof membrane, nine tracks, a state-of-the-art scoreboard and also 761 seats for journalists and a special area that can accommodate 400 wheelchairs.

The construction of the tracks and field, installation of the seats and mechanical and electrical works at the support building are currently underway.

The fully air-conditioned indoor stadium, which will have 13,000 permanent seats and 3,000 retractable seat, is 64 per cent completed while the swimming complex which can accommodate 4,000 spectators is 64 per cent ready.

Although under the contract between the government and UEM, the indoor stadium and swimming complex are scheduled for completion on April 1 next year and the open stadium on June 1, UEM expects to complete them by end of this year.

Construction of the Commonwealth Games Village which can accommodate 6,000 Games athletes and officials is 75 per cent completed. -- BERNAMA

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