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Muhyiddin-Complex

NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX PROJECT ON SCHEDULE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Construction of the RM679 million National Sports Complex is on schedule and the Commonwealth Games organisers will have enough time to test and install equipment, said Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"Everything is going on smoothly and I am happy with the workmanship. I am confident UEM (United Engineers Malaysia Berhad which is the main contractor) will complete the works according to schedule," he told reporters after inspecting the progress of the complex at Bukit Jalil today.

Muhyiddin said the main stadium, with a capacity of 100,000, and the aquatics complex could be completed by the end of the year or several months ahead of schedule.

He said the ministry would invite Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the complex next month to see the installation of the covered roof at the main stadium.

The minister said works at the games village and indoor stadium are progressing well while the construction of the squash complex has just started but he was confident it would be ready in time for the Kuala Lumpur Games.

The hockey stadium, which is handled by the Public Works Department and situated close to the Shah Alam Expressway, is almost complete and will be handed over to the ministry by the end of the month, said Muhyiddin.

"We will ask MHF (Malaysian Hockey Federation) to test the facilities here before the pre-World Cup in March," he said.

He said the completion of the multi-million ringgit complex earlier than schedule would provide sufficient time for Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad and sport associations to test the facilities before the games proper in Sept 1998.

However, he said, they would ask UEM to allocate 200 extra rooms at the games village following the inclusion of bowling and a few more events.

On the landscaping of the complex, Muhyiddin said consultants were preparing a report and work will resume by the end of the year.

"We want the landscaping to start this year so we will have a beautiful area when the games starts," said Muhyiddin.

He said trees and plants used should adhere to the specifications given by the Prime Minister's Department.

Muhyiddin congratulated the Automobile Association of Malaysia (AAM) for clinching a deal with Dorna and Two Wheels Promotion Limited to host the World Motorcycle Grand Prix in Shah Alam for the next five years.

"I hope they will be able to carry out the responsibility well," he said.

Yesterday, AAM was appointed as the promoter and organiser of the grand prix, scheduled on April 13. It took over from the Selangor government which had declined to renew its five-year deal that expired last year. --

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