

10/07/1997

OCM still relevant and involved in the Games, says Sieh

Randhir Singh

THE Olympic Council of Malaysia yesterday dismissed the notion that they have been left out of the Commonwealth Games organisation structure with the abolishment of the Games management committee of which their president, Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah, was a joint-chairman.

OCM general secretary Sieh Kok Chi said in Kuala Lumpur that OCM are still relevant and involved in the Games.

"Hamzah is a Sukom (Games organising committee) board member and member of the Games Council chaired by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. We have four members on the Sukom board," said Sieh.

Sieh said OCM vice-president Tunku Imran Tuanku Jaafar is also chairman of two of the 15 major committees under Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. Imran heads the marketing and sports committees.

On Tuesday Muhyiddin announced the revamped executive committee which now comprises 15 sub-committees. They report directly to him. Muhyiddin said the management committee jointly chaired by Hamzah and Jen (rtd) Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali has been dissolved.

Other than Hamzah and Imran, Datuk Alex Lee and Dr P.S. Nathan are other OCM representatives on the Sukom board.

Lee, in his capacity as vice-president of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), has also been included in the Sukom executive committee under the Sukom board.

Sieh said OCM welcomed the government's effort to place the entire machinery at the disposal of the organising committee.

Sieh said the move does not come as a surprise as it is quite common for the government to be involved in organising such Games in the past.

"In fact, it should have happened earlier (Government's involvement). There was no way the Games could have been organised without Government support," said Sieh.

Sieh said history has proven time and again that Games of such magnitude need Government's assistance.

"From security, finance and transport it is the Government that takes the lead. We have always acknowledged it."

Sieh was commenting on the acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's directive on Tuesday to all Government departments and agencies to place their machinery at the disposal of the Games organising committee.

Anwar made the call after chairing the Commonwealth Games Council meeting at the Sports Ministry.

Sieh said the revamp of the Games structure has gone down well with the CGF. Their secretary, David Dixon, was in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday and has been briefed on the subject by Sukom.

(END)