

Games facilities can be reused, says PM

KUALALUMPUR: The money spent on facilities for the 16th Commonwealth Games will not be wasted because the facilities can be used in future, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said since Malaysia was chosen to host the Games (from Sept 11 to 21) it had carried out projects some had dubbed "mega projects" and which supposedly cost a lot of money.

"The new airport, stadiums, roads, other facilities, and even the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) only cost a quarter of the cost to build the new Jlong Kong airport, not even US\$5bil.

"This is because we were careful in our spending," Dr Mahathir said when opening the RM68mil IBC in Angkasapuri here.

Also present were Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The IBC will be the lifeline for all broadcasting activities during the Games and will be used 24 hours by local and foreign TV and radio stations.

It offers TV studio, editing room, control room, and an archive centre.

He said although Malaysia had never hosted a big event like the Commonwealth Games, he was confident it would be a success because the people believed in their own ability.

"We have made the necessary preparations although the budget may be big for a small nation like Malaysia," he said.