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Free tickets for the pre-Games

Harris Taib

A TOTAL of 100,000 tickets will be given out free inconjunction with the launch of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil on July 11 which will kick of the eight-day Pre-Commonwealth Games meet.

Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open the sports complex and name each of the new stadiums.

"I promise you, these facilities will not be left as white elephants after the Games," he said.

The facilities, which will be ready by the end of this month, include the main stadium, the indoor stadium, hockey stadium, swimming complex, squash stadium, netball stadium, lawnbowls stadium and the Bukit Komanwel facility.

Muhyiddin said the July 11 launch would allow the Commonwealth Games secretariat to gauge crowd and traffic control, its communications and technological systems, technical equipment and the efficiency of the staff who would eventually be deployed for the Games.

"The purpose of having a grand launch is not only to inform the public that these facilities are ready, but for them to take pride in these stadiums. We want people to use these facilities to the fullest after the Games."

The gates into the main stadium will open from 5pm, and tickets can be collected from Sunday (June 21) at the Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara counters, and at all State-level Youth and Sports Departments.

Each individual is limited to five tickets, and have been advised to seat according to the seat number, row and areas designated in the magnetic-stripped tickets.

Dr Mahathir is also expected to launch the Petronas Cab vehicles, open the Bukit Jalil LRT station before receiving the Pre-Games torch and declaring the Pre-Games open.

Also planned or the evening include a concert by a string of local artistes which will end at midnight.

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