

05 FEB 1998

Commonwealth-Muhyiddin

GOVERNMENT DECIDES HOTEL ROOM RATES IN RINGGIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- The government has decided that the hotel rooms for the Commonwealth Games in September be quoted in the ringgit and not in the US dollar.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today's Commonwealth Games Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also gave the assurance that the room rates to be decided would be reasonable.

"We have received a full report from Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad (Sukom) on the room rates for the duration of Kuala Lumpur '98, after dicussing the matter with the council members who agreed that the rates be quoted in the ringgit," he told a news conference at his office here.

Earlier, Sukom '98 (SAB '98) Accommodation Bureau project coordinator John Eades said the room rates were likely to increased when quoted in dollars because of its present value against the ringgit.

According to Eades, all contracts formalised with the hotels two years ago, made provisions for the room service to be quoted in dollars.

About 70 hotels affected are offering 8,000 to 9,000 rooms in Kuala Lumpur and Langkwai at varying rates from US50 to US200 per night.

The Bureau, managed by Byrom Consultants Ltd, is responsible for arranging rooms for tourism operators, broadcasters, sponsors, Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) representatives, the media, VIPs, officials as well as athletes.

The meeting, attended by Sukom 98 executive chairman Tan Sri Hashim Ali, also discussed the likely problems to affect the public transport system, following the recent decision of two bus companies to withdraw their participation.

The transport committee would ensure that all the transport system like the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, the commuter and monorail, would operate according to schedule, besides the usual bus and taxi services, said Muhyiddin.

Talks would be held with several airlines to decide on the reasonable fares for those in Sabah and Sarawak wishing to watch the games in the peninsula, he added. -- BERNAMA

ZMA AR RM