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Minister: Invitations sent; officers trained

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THE Protocol committee for the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games yesterday finalised invitations to 4,321 guests, making it one of the largest congregation of local and international sporting bodies.

A total of 327 protocol officers have already been trained, some of whom were given exposure during the launch of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil and at the Pre-Games events.

The three-hour meeting at the Sports Ministry focussed on traffic management, security of the guests and seating arrangements.

"We have taken into account every detail possible," Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said at a Press conference.

The guests have been categorised as from the Government and Commonwealth Games Federation.

Muhyiddin said all the invitations have already gone out, adding that Sukom would follow up by sending the guests a manual on the opening and closing ceremonies to those who have confirmed their attendance.

The King is scheduled to open the Games.

Muhyiddin said the King will be ushered in an open-hood vehicle from the flagship hotel, the Palace of the Golden Horses, into the stadium before the customary Royal presentation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will earlier be ushered into the main stadium in a similar manner.

Muhyiddin said Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to host a dinner for 600 guests on Sept 12 at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Among the VIPS attending the opening ceremony will be Commonwealth Games Federation president Prince Edward.

Queen Elizabeth will be attending the closing ceremony.

Meanwhile, the Games Traffic Management and Security Committee representative SAC II Dell Akhbar Khan said some 5,000 police personnel will be on duty during the Games, stationed at all the venues or assigned to VIP escorts.

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