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Games-Complex

NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX ATTRACTS LARGE CROWDS

By: Aziz Harun

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- The public are beginning to stream to the National Sports Complex at Bukit Jalil here even though the opening of the 16th Commonwealth Games is two days away.

Many people are taking advantage of the school holidays to bring their families to visit the sports complex which was opened recently for the second biggest Games in the world.

Several business outlets are beginning to sprout around the National Stadium for the convenience of visitors to buy souvenirs, have a meal or visit the competition venues.

The benches placed around the LRT station were all occupied by visitors taking a rest after walking around the complex in the warm weather or just sitting around watching the fountain in front of the National Aquatic Centre.

Many of the souvenir traders are just beginning to decorate their surroundings while those selling food enjoyed a windfall with the large number of people, including athletes and sports officials, patronising their stalls.

However, many of the hungry visitors who patronised the food stalls came away complaining of high prices.

On visitor, Nurul Aina Husin, 34, lamented that the prices of food at the food court near the stadium were very high compared to other places.

However, she said she had come prepared with her family to spend some time at the complex.

She admitted that she had not bought any tickets for the opening ceremony of the Games because she felt it would be more comfortable watching it on the television at home and she had only brought her children to look at the stadiums.

Unlike many of the people working at the sports complex, most of the visitors had other alternatives such as bringing food from home or going to food outlets outside the complex.

Several sporting events started today and the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is expected to attend the final opening ceremony rehearsal of the Games tonight.

Mohd Faris Mahathir, 23, has a unique reason to visit the stadium...to watch the different faces of people from the various parts of the world.

He also wants to witness the various preparations made to receive the foreign visitors.

Faris was not disappointed as he was able to observe foreign visitors of different colour and sizes in national dresses or jerseys mingling with the crowds.

A group of youths, who were found haggling over the price of some souvenirs sold at the stalls near the sports complex, finally decided against buying them claiming they were expensive.

"Tomorrow we can get the same the same souvenirs at a much cheaper price at Petaling Street," one of them was heard to say.

-- Bernama

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