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Commonwealth-NGOs

NGOs URGED TO HELP ENSURE SUCCESS OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country were today urged to help ensure the success of the 16th Commonwealth Games here.

Making the call, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said NGOs for instance should not organise any kind of demonstration during the games as this would tarnish the country's image.

The police would take all necessary action to ensure security and ensure that the games went off smoothly, he said after attending a briefing on police security preparations for the Commonwealth Games by Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor at Stadium Nasional here.

He said some 6,000 sportsmen and women from 70 Commonwealth countries would take part in the games at 23 venues and this involved Malaysia's honour and image.

Malaysia had pledged to make it the best Commonwealth Games ever and everyone should cooperate towards ensuring this, he said.

Some 1,500 journalists were expected to cover the games.

He said Malaysian NGOs should not emulate their counterparts in other countries where they organised demonstrations each time an international conference was held.

The Government wanted NGO members in Malaysia to cooperate and together with their fellow Malaysians help ensure the success of the games.

"The Government wishes to appeal to the people not to create any problem during the games and the police will be firm in discharging their duties," he said.

He said the Police Department had been allocated RM19.3 million to meet expenditure to mount extra security and make traffic control arrangements during the games.

Some 5,400 police personnel would be on duty during the duration of the games, he said.

Tajol Rosli said police would also be on heightened alert against people spreading or publishing false news including through the Internet that could have an adverse effect on the games.

"Police are now IT conscious and are ready to address the problem," he said.

He noted that two suspects were already in, in connection with the spreading of rumours.

Tajol on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also Home Minister commended the police for their speedy action in nabbing the two suspects.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AAM