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`No rift with Sukom Ninety-Eight'

THERE is no rift between Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad and the Youth and Sports Ministry in the preparations for the upcoming Commonwealth Games, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

In response to a supplementary question from Noh Omar (BN-Tanjung Karang), he said the ministry was working closely with the company which is responsible for organising the Games.

"We are all committed and determined to make this Games a success and I admit there may be some differences in opinion between us, but we have no serious problems."

He added that the media were in many ways to blame for highlighting the differences and creating the impression that there was a rift.

Muhyiddin said the ministry was monitoring the operations of Sukom Bhd since the Government and the Olympic Council of Malaysia were major shareholders in the company.

In response to the original question from Lim Guan Eng (DAP-Kota Melaka), Muhyiddin said the preparations for the September Games were progressing well and RM2 billion had been allocated.

Sukom Bhd has raised RM280 million from sponsorship deals, he said.

"But due to the current economic situation, Sukom Bhd is facing problems obtaining new sponsors and the Government has ordered all the organising committees of the Games to be prudent and control their expenditure."

He said the management was being monitored by the Kuala Lumpur '98 Games Council, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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