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Games-Dinner

50,000 PEOPLE INVITED FOR GRAND DINNER ON SATURDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will host a premier dinner here on Saturday for 50,000 people involved in the successful organisation of the 16th Commonwealth Games.

The Prime Minister has directed that all those involved in running the Games be invited for the grand dinner at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said here today.

Besides volunteers, officials from government departments, sponsors, athletes, sports associations, police, armed forces, Cabinet members and their spouses would be among those invited, he said.

At the dinner, the prime minister would deliver a keynote address and present incentives amounting to RM2.2 million to Malaysian medallists in the 10-day Games which ended on Sept 21, he said.

Malaysia won 10 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze medals for their best ever performance of a fourth placing overall.

Muhyiddin said the dinner would cost about RM2 million and the money has been approved by the Cabinet.

There will be a video show and a concert by local artistes and the event will end at about midnight.

"It would cost RM25 per head. There will be 10 main caterers with 600 helpers to prepare the dinner for the guests," he said.

Muhyiddin said all the 16,575 volunteers were urged to turn up for the dinner even if the invitation cards did not reach them in time.

Volunteers can also collect the invitation cards at the stadium and those without invitation cards can attend the dinner using their accreditation cards.

The dinner will start at 7.30pm and the stadium gates will be open from 5pm.

Muhyiddin said special certificates signed by Dr Mahathir would be sent later to all those involved in running the Games.

He said the LRT to the Bukit Jalil station, next to the stadium, would not be operational that day and guests should disembark at the Bandar Tasik Selatan station.

He said 50 buses would be provided to carry guests from the Bandar Tasik Selatan LRT station to the stadium at a nominal RM1 return fare.

A foreign filming crew has booked the Bukit Jalil LRT station to shoot scenes for a movie featuring former James Bond star Sean Connery, he said.

On parking, he said only the C car park is designated for the 650 VIP guests while the other areas are open to the public on a first-come-first-served basis.

-- BERNAMA

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