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Olympic-Muhyiddin

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FORMED FOR 2008 GAMES

KUALA BERANG, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- The government will form a special committee to formulate the strategy for Malaysia to offer herself as host for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the committee would be formed either this month or in November.

"The committee will be responsible for drawing up plans for Malaysia in making the bid to the International Olympic Council (IOC) to host the 2008 Olympic Games and to overcome whatever challenges from other countries interested in hosting the 2008 Games," he said after attending the Premier Motivational Programme here last night.

Muhyiddin will chair the committee comprising representatives from the government, Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) and the private sectors.

He said it was very difficult to compete in the bid to host the largest multi-sports event in the world, but Malaysia would still make the bid as her success in organising the 16th Commonwealth Games Kuala Lumpur '98 last month had given her the confidence to offer herself as host.

The idea of hosting the 2008 Olympic Games was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said that the success in hosting the Commonwealth Games and the infrastructure available at the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex had offered a possibility for Malaysia to offer herself as host for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Malaysia is said to have a good infrastructure for sports which are of international standards with the construction of the RM800 million National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil and the Games Village which is located about 400 metres from the complex.

The Asian continent hosted the Olympic Games when Seoul, in South Korea was selected as the venue for the 1988 Games.

Muhyiddin also disclosed that the management board of the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil would be corporatised soon so that it could plan strategies to ensure that the sports complex did not confine its activities to sporting events alone.

The corporation would also promote all the facilities at the sports complex for other activities including exhibitions and family days so that the facilities could be fully utilised.

-- BERNAMA

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