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One ticket, two sessions

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THE need to make early bookings for next month's Commonwealth Games athletics programme became even more urgent yesterday.

Sukom, organisers of the Games, agreed with Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that one ticket, instead of two, is suffice for the public to watch the morning and evening sessions.

That means there will now be 305,000 less tickets to sell for the athletics programme.

The good news is that the prices will remain unchanged.

"This is good news for fans as they will be able to watch both the morning and evening sessions by purchasing just one ticket," said Muhyiddin after chairing the Games executive committee meeting at the International Zone of the Games Village in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

Before yesterday's decision, Sukom, through official ticketing agent Ticket Express, were selling separate tickets for the morning and evening sessions.

Tickets for the morning session cost between RM10 and RM30 while the ticket prices for the evening session was between RM15 and RM50.

Indications are that Sukom and Ticket Express, who will meet to decide the actual ticket prices, will settle for those ranging between RM15 and RM50.

A majority of the morning session tickets were allocated for schoolchildren under a sponsorship package drawn up by Sukom and actual sales to the public were not that encouraging.

Muhyiddin said Sukom will distribute new tickets to those who have already purchased separate tickets for events on the same day.

Muhyiddin also said Sukom have been asked to furnish names of world class athletes to the media.

"We want the public to know who is coming. Although there are some delays in the submission of entries, we expect everything to be in place by the first week of September."

Muhyiddin said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who chaired the Commonwealth Games council meeting on Monday, has ordered that the Games run like clockwork.

"The Prime Minister has said contingency plans will be in place for the opening and closing ceremonies to ensure that even if there is bad weather, the main events will proceed."

He said that seven rehearsals will be held for the opening and closing ceremonies.

The Games Village will be officially opened on Aug 28 while the test run for the computer systems will be held next week.

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