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`Only minor glitches remain'

Jugjet Singh

SPORTS Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday declared that all is well after chairing the Commonwealth Games council meeting.

He added that only minor glitches need to be ironed out.

"Traffic control during the opening of the National Sports Complex on July 11 was discussed at length because we discovered that this area needs immediate attention," said Muhyiddin.

Traffic management, under Senior Assistant Commissioner (II) Dell Akbar Khan, received plenty of flak from the public. Initial feedback showed that many ticket holders were given the runaround during the opening of the complex by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Most got tired of being pushed around by strict traffic management and went home instead. The National Stadium, with a capacity of 100,000, admitted about 70,000 people on July 11.

Dell had said that only vehicles with special stickers were allowed to park at the complex's parking bay, but the rule was broken and many VIPs with special stickers had to fight their way in and arrived late.

"We also discussed other shortcomings during the pre-Games and I am happy that most of the problems have been rectified. We received good feedback from the public and their main grouse was that there were not enough signboards around the complex.

Guest passes for the opening and closing ceremonies have been increased from 4,000 to 5,000.

"We have sent invitations to the guests of the government and hope they will come early and take their places as scheduled so that the ceremonies will not be delayed."

Muhyiddin, who presented a progress report to Dr Mahathir in the morning, said: "The Prime Minister was briefed on the feedback received from the pre-Games and has urged the Games Council to rectify some of the glitches.

"Towards this, the council will now meet once a week and present their problems, if any, so that they can be solved," said Muhyiddin.

On the bickering for places in the national teams, Muhyiddin said he will leave it to the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) and the various associations to select athletes based on the criteria that had been decided.

"OCM and associations have the final say," said Muhyiddin.

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