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Concert to lure fans for opening of stadium

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A MUSICAL concert with an international flavour will be held at the opening of the Bukit Jalil Stadium on July 11.

The concert is being held to attract the fans to fill up the the 100,000-seater Stadium.

Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Cabinet had on Wednesday approved the opening of the stadium and the Pre-Commonwealth Games trial run by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We want to pack the stadium. It is a kind of a stress test, so even if there are more than 100,000 people, we want to see how the transport and logistics departments cope with it."

Muhyiddin said they have yet to finalise the international entertainer to be invited.

He said the cost of the opening will be sponsored by a private company, who prefer not be named.

Muhyiddin said the Ministry had no choice but to come down hard on contractors who failed to meet the deadline or are slow in the completion of the stadiums for the Commonwealth Games.

Muhyiddin said the Ministry do not want pictures of workers making last-minute touch-up jobs to be flashed around the world on the eve of the Games.

He said that is the reason that they are setting a strict deadline for contractors.

Muhyiddin said that though some contract agreements allow the contractors a two-month grace period until July, he wants all venues to be ready by the end of April.

"We want them to hand over the venues to the Ministry so that the fittings can be done earlier," said Muhyiddin.

"We have to install equipment and other facilities such as those for the media. So we need them to finish construction early."

Two days ago, the Ministry gave the main contractor for the RM17 million Pantai Hockey Stadium, WRA Services Sdn Bhd, an ultimatum to complete the stadium by April.

Work on the women's hockey venue is 35 per cent behind schedule.

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