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Commonwealth-different

ORGANISATION OF 16TH COMMONWEALTH GAMES DIFFERENT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- The organisation of the Commonwealth Games in a developing country like Malaysia, incorporating team events and the involvement of the government in collaboration with the private sector makes it different from the previous games.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said throughout the history of the meet, almost all the games had been held in developed countries.

"Malaysia is the second developing country to have been given the honour to host the games after Jamaica because in the past they had been held in the developed countries," he said.

Earlier he attended the meeting between the Kuala Lumpur Games '98 volunteers and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

He said at the Commonwealth Games here, team events such as cricket, netball, lawn bowls and others would also be included, the first time such events are held in the games.

He said the hosting of the games by the government in collaboration with the private sectors such as Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, organisers of the 16th Commonwealth Games, was something unique as the organisation of the games had never involved the private sector before.

"In the past meets, only governments were involved...but in Malaysia it is a national event with the involvement of all parties including the private sector and the public," he added.

Muhyiddin said the hosting of the Commonwealth Games was a test for the country to host more and bigger sports meets such as the Olympic.

"We will make a bid to host the Olympic Games but not in the near future.

"Nothing can stop us from bidding to host the Olympic Games. What is certain is that we will make the bid when the time is appropriate," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ERE/SHS AO