

12 AUG 1998

Games-Contingent

PM HANDS OVER FLAG TO M'SIAN CONTINGENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today handed over the national flag "Jalur Gemilang" to the Malaysian contingent to the 16th Commonwealth Games which will be held from Sept 11-21.

The flag was handed over to chef-de-mission Datuk Khalid Yunus at Stadium Putra, one of five Games venues within the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil here.

The flag presentation ceremony was held in conjunction with a meeting the Prime Minister had with the national athletes to motivate them to give their best in the world's second biggest games.

At the ceremony, Dr Mahathir received the official track suit for the Malaysian contingent and a RM7,760 contribution made by the contingent to the National Special Fund aimed at helping in national economic recovery.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Yesterday the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) released a list of 241 Malaysian athletes who will participate in the 16 sports in the Games.

Malaysia have set a target of winning seven gold, six silver and 11 bronze medals in the Games which will see the participation of all 69 members of the Commonwealth Games Federation, a record in the Games history.

Malaysia is the first country in Asia to host the Games which were last held in Victoria, Canada, four years ago. The next Games will be held in Manchester in 2002.

The other facilities in the RM800 million National Sports Complex, which was specially built for the Games, are the 100,000-seater National Stadium, the venue for athletics; the National Aquatic Centre; National Squash Complex and National Hockey Stadium.

The complex was officially opened by Dr Mahathir on July 11 this year.

-- BERNAMA

MAM YBY