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Commonwealth-Pre-Games

PRE-GAMES BUDGET SLASHED BY HALF

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad has reduced the budget for the pre-Commonwealth Games from July 11 to 19 to RM2.295 million, which is about half the initial estimated cost of RM4.5 million.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the five associations involved in the pre-Games would receive RM134,830 each for organising their respective sports while other costs would be taken care of by Sukom.

"All the preparations are going on smoothly and the five associations have submitted proposals on the types of events and budget to Sukom," he told a press conference after a briefing on the pre-Games here today.

He said about 2,000 athletes and officials were expected to participate in the pre-Games and they would stay at Block C of the Games Village.

He said support services would be mobilised during the pre-Games, including the results and technology systems which are being installed at the venues.

The pre-Games are being organised to test the facilities and organisation for the 16th Commonwealth Games to be held from Sept 11-21.

Athletics, aquatics, squash, men's hockey and gymnastics are the sports to be featured in the pre-Games, which will coincide with the opening of the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Muhyiddin said the transportation and traffic system, including buses for the Games family and the public, would also be tested, especially during the opening ceremony on July 11 which is expected to attract 90,000 people.

Besides that, the Doping Centre in Universiti Sains Malaysia in Pulau Pinang would also test at least 10 samples taken randomly.

Except for hockey which will involve five local teams, the other pre-Games sports will have foreign participation.

"I want the associations to maintain high standards, even in events without foreign participants," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AR YBY