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Public barred from opening ceremony rehearsal

THE full-dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games on Sept 9 at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil will not be open to the public, Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday.

Only selected groups, including people who are directly involved in the Games, would be allowed a preview of the dress rehearsal, which will also be witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Only family members of the Games' volunteers, people involved in the shows and other dedicated groups would be given a pass each to watch the rehearsal.

"The media will also be allowed to watch the proceedings but are prohibited from taking photographs or recording the event on video," Muhyiddin told reporters after opening the Games Village at Bukit Jalil.

He said about 90,000 passes would be issued for the rehearsal.

"We cannot open the rehearsal to the public because the demand would be too great," he said.

Muhyiddin said the opening ceremony on Sept 11 would have several surprises and urged the public should not miss this "once in a lifetime event at their doorstep."

Tickets for the opening ceremony are priced between RM30 and RM450.

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