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Sukom-Ticket

RM5 MILLION WORTH OF TICKETS SOLD FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

By: Ahmad Fuad Yahaya

PETALING JAYA, April 21 (Bernama) -- As the date for the 16th Commonwealth Games to be held in Kuala Lumpur approaches, the sales of tickets for the Games is progressing well with bookings worth RM5 million received locally and abroad.

Executive Chairman of Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, Jen (Rtd) Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali said today, a total of 1.28 million tickets would be put up for sale and Sukom could rake in RM36 million if all the tickets were sold.

Counter sales of the tickets would only start in July until the Games which had been scheduled for Sept 11 to 21, he told a news conference after the opening of the fourth Client Broadcasters Conference for the Games, held at a hotel here.

Overseas sales of ticket bookings started in August last year, followed by domestic booking sales three months later. The tickets range from RM5 to RM500.

Meanwhile, Information Ministry Secretary General Datuk Zawawi Mahmuddin said some nine client broadcasters have so far indicated interest to cover the event and he was satisfied with the preparation by RTM as the host broadcaster.

The television coverage would enable more than 500 million viewers to watch the Games worldwide.

Zawawi who had earlier opened the conference on behalf of Information Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC) building at Angkasapuri had been completed last January and it was now being installed with the state-of-the-art equipment incorporating digital technology.

"Everything is expected to be in place by June," he said.

Zawawi promised that all broadcasting equipment and facilities required would be provided to client broadcasters.

Meanwhile Jen Hashim in his speech said over 6,000 athletes and officials of the Commonwealth nations were expected to come to Kuala Lumpur for the Games.

"To date 65 of the 69 member countries have confirmed their participation in the Kuala Lumpur '98 Games. The 16th Commonwealth Games promises the best sporting moments in an exciting yet friendly atmosphere," he said.

Jen Hashim said Sukom was now in an advanced state of readiness for the Games, as for the venues, all of them were at or near completion.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officially open the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex on July 11 and simultaneously the branch LRT line to Bukit Jalil would begin its commercial operations, he added.

The Queen's baton relay for the Games began with pomp and splendour at Buckingham palace on March 9 after which it was taken to Manchester, the next host city.

From there it has gone to Kenya and the Caribbean.

The baton will arrive in Malaysia on July 7 after which it would travel around all the 13 states and two federal territories,

It would arrive at the main stadium on the opening day of the Games.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AO