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Muhyiddin-Medal

SEVEN-GOLD TARGET IS REALISTIC, SAYS MUHYIDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's seven-gold haul as forecast by the National Sports Council (NSC) for the 16th Commonwealth Games is a realistic target, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said the assessment was based on feedback from the relevant sports associations and the athletes' rankings in Commonwealth.

However, this did not mean that Malaysia were not capable of exceeding this target in the Games from Sept 11-21, he told reporters after meeting the athletes preparatory committee here.

Muhyiddin said the unexpected could happen in sports and if athletes hit form at the right time they could beat those ranked above them.

The NSC target is slightly lower than the Olympic Council of Malaysia's eight-gold forecast.

The NSC are counting on two golds from weightlifting, three from badminton and two from shooting.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia could win medals in other sports, such as synchronised swimming individual and duet where Malaysia are ranked in the top five in Commonwealth.

Bowling has predicted to win two medals but was not certain of the colour, he said.

Muhyiddin said training had entered a critical stage and sports associations confident of winning medals could seek financial assistance from the NSC to give their athletes more exposure.

About RM124 million of the RM160 million allocated for preparing athletes had been used up, he said.

Muhyiddin said reports received showed that training of athletes was progressing smoothly.

Meanwhile, the Main Stadium at the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex would be officially opened simultaneously with the opening of the pre-Commonwealth Games on July 11 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He will also name the Main Stadium and Hockey Stadium there. -- BERNAMA  
SHS YBY