

24 AUG 1998

IBC-Commonwealth

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR BROADCASTERS AT IBC

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- The International Broadcasting Centre (IBC) opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Angkasapuri ground today offers state-of-the-art facilities for broadcasters covering the 16th Commonwealth Games here from Sept 11 to 21.

The three-storey building on a 6,600 square metre site would be the nerve centre for all broadcasting activities during the games also known as Kuala Lumpur '98.

Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) appointed the host broadcaster for the games was entrusted with the responsibility of building and administering the IBC as well as providing working space for client broadcasters.

It will also receive and channel the various radio and television signals during the games.

Among the 15 international broadcasting houses which will use the IBC facilities are the BBC (Britain), Channel 9 TV (Australia), TV New Zealand, Radio Network Sport (New Zealand), Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and broadcasting stations from South Africa, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Local broadcasters are RTM, TV3, Metrovision, NTV7 and Astro.

TV coverage of the games is expected to reach some 500 million people in various parts of the world.

The IBC is making available working space of 10,000 square metres -- for client broadcasters (5,000 square metres), host broadcaster (3,000 square metres) and general service space (2,000 square metres).

The entire IBC equipment will be using the digital format which will result in better quality "input" compared to the analogue format.

Apart from the IBC, 263 cameras, 191 video recorders, four helicopters, 500 microphones, 26 mobile broadcasting vans, 100 cabins and three motorcycles will also be available for publishing and technical staff during Kuala Lumpur '98.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said TV1 would allocate 80 per cent of its airtime to the games and TV2 76 per cent of its airtime.

The 800 RTM staffers involved in the coverage are expected to expand their broadcasting skills and acquire new experience during the games.

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