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Games-Muhyiddin

STUDENTS POWER CAN MAKE KL 98 GAMES A SUCCESS

IPOH, July 4 (Bernama) -- Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today the estimated four million schoolchildren in the country should be encouraged to watch the 16th Commonwealth Games to boost ticket sales.

He urged Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) to get private companies to sponsor tickets for students to watch the Games from Sept 11-21.

"The Games organisers, Sukom Ninety Eight Bhd, offer tickets at special prices for students, and therefore PTAs can work out sponsorship with private companies apart from seeking discounted fares for bus and train services," he said.

Speaking to reporters after launching the Perak-level Commonwealth Games promotions here, Muhyiddin said this move would instil the Games spirit and fever in students.

He said Perak was the first state where the Education Department conducted the Games promotions on a big scale.

Muhyiddin said schools can organise visits to the various venues for the Games after the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 11.

Those interested should contact the Stadium Merdeka Board, who are managing the sports facilities for the Games.

Perak Education, Youth and Sports Committee Chairman Datuk Dr Abdul Malek Hanafiah said the private sector in Perak had pledged to sponsor 70,000 tickets for the Games, the world's second biggest after the Olympics.

He said companies in Perak could help make the Games a success by giving tickets to their employees instead of holding dinners for them.

"The Games tickets can also be given as a reward for excellent service," he said.

Malek handed to Muhyiddin 686,888 one sen coins that were collected by Sekolah Menengah Main Convent here to be used for buying tickets to the Games.

Ticket Express Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Sri Ram Sarma said four million tickets were booked last week bringing to eight million the number of tickets sold.

Muhyiddin had a busy schedule today attending promotional programmes drawn up by educational institutions, village folk, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

-- BERNAMA

LAT YBY