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Commonwealth-volunteers
SUKOM TRAINS 15,470 VOLUNTEERS

By: Asan Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- Some 15,470 volunteers for the Commonwealth Games in September here have undergone orientation courses since it was launched at the end of last year.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the courses were conducted according to the work scope given to them for the Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur '98.

Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad (Sukom) will utilise 16,632 volunteers during the meet and the number would be divided according to the needs of all the centres and the events put up.

Among the volunteers who had undergone training so far are those in the supervisory, protocol, and information technology groups, drivers, medal bearers, and ticket sellers while those who have not undergone training include general workers who would begin training next month.

The courses would be carried out in stages according to the schedule set up by the human resources division of Sukom, said Muhyiddin after a briefing on Sukom volunteers at his office, here today.

He said the effectiveness of the volunteers would be tested during the Commonwealth pre-Games in July. So far, Sukom had not divided the group for the various venues as the focus now was to equip them with the necessary skill according to their work scope.

During the Games from Sept 11-21, Sukom had pledged to assist them in terms of transportation particularly for those from outside the Klang Valley. They would be accommodated at the UPM Campus in Bangi.

"Sukom will provide transportation for them to go to the venues but volunteers from the Klang Valey are advised to use their own transport and they will be provided with an allocation for transportation cost," Muhyiddin said.

A mass gathering for the volunteers will be held at the Merdeka Square on April 26 where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver his message to them.

Meanwhile, ticketing agent for the Games, Ticket Express Sdn Bhd, must immediately improve on its sales promotion especially for the domestic market.

"I have told Sukom and Ticket Express to streamline their strategies which are still weak and the public is still confused," Muhyiddin said.

He said people were still asking how to get the tickets and the situation reflected as though no campaign had been carried out about ticket sales.

If Petronas petrol stations had been appointed as agents for bookings, then Ticket Express must explain in detail which stations had been appointed and the same thing applied to Post Offices and Bank Bumiputera Malaysia Berhad (BBMB) which had been appointed as sales agents.

"If possible, all post offices and BBMB branches throughout the country must be appointed for this purpose and Ticket Express must ensure that special counters are provided," he added. -- BERNAMA

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