

17 APR 1998
Sukma (Advancer)
SUKMA KE-7 OPENS TODAY

SHAH ALAM, April 17 (Bernama) -- The 7th Malaysia Games (Sukma), also known as Malaysia Mini Games, begins today with three sports events being held on the first day.

Basketball, football, rhythmic swimming and springboard diving will be held on the first day of the 10-day meet with 262 gold, 262 silver and 305 bronze medals up for grabs.

The other events are weight lifting, badminton, netball, lawn bowl, artistic gymnastic, gymrama, men's and women's golf, men's and women's hockey, cricket, cycling, mountain bike, archery, shooting and athletics.

Sailing, rugby, swimming, water polo, squash, sepak takraw, silat, taekwondo, tennis, tenpin bowling, and boxing make up the rest of the events for the Sukma this year.

Selangor has been chosen as host after Kedah, which was originally supposed to host the biennial games, withdrew on grounds that it did not have sufficient facilities.

Some 4,000 participants from all states including Labuan and the Malaysian School Sports Council (MSSC) are taking part in the Games.

There are less participants this year as Brunei, Royal Malaysian Police and the Malaysian Inter-Universities Sports Council (Masun) are not taking part this time.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar is scheduled to open the Games Village at the Institut Teknologi Mara here, this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Games will be officially opened by the Raja Muda of Selangor on Saturday at the Shah Alam Stadium while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officiate at the closing ceremony on April 26 at the Shah Alam Indoor Stadium. -- BERNAMA

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