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Games-Technology

TESTING OF FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY GOING ON SMOOTHLY

By: Arul Rajoo

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- Despite some teething problems, the testing of facilities and technology for the 16th Commonwealth Games is now progressing well at the ongoing pre-games at the National Sports Complex here.

Kol Sapari Sarkawi, Technology Director of Games organisers Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, said things have improved a lot in the past few days and there are no major problems encountered now.

"We are not only testing the technology but the venues as well. We did encounter some problems like power supply connection and getting IT supply...but things have improved a lot now," he said here today.

Sapari said such problems were expected as they were only moving and testing the equipment for the past few days because the venues were only completed recently.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officially opened the complex in Bukit Jalil on Saturday.

"We are testing the scoreboard, timing, result systems, communication lines, sound systems and various other aspects. The pre-games have given us the opportunity to test our resources although we could not do it on a big scale," he said.

Sapari said Sukom were doing their best to identify and solve problems encountered at the pre-games, and things that need to be improved would be improved.

"One of the reasons why the problems occur is because the officials and volunteers are not familiar with the IT system," he said.

He said it was not just a matter of testing the facilities but officials needed time "to get to know and be intimate with the IT system".

"Some of the volunteers are from outstation and they can't get leave often...it will be difficult for us to teach them the system," he said.

Asked about the non-availability of Info '98 from the opening day, Sapari said the online information system would be tested from today.

"We will do it in stages...if we push all at one go, it will jam the system. Besides that, the Info '98 requires data and information which we don't have in full now," he said.

Sapari said Sukom were currently testing more lines and have also set up a help desk connected to all the venues to reduce problems encountered during the pre-games which end on Sunday.

He said they could not test all the systems as some of the facilities were not ready yet, including the International Broadcasting Centre and the Main Press Centre.

"But we will continue to test the facilities and technology system after the pre-games to ensure everything is in place by the time the Games start in September," said Sapari.

-- BERNAMA

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