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Ticket sales slow but Muhyiddin's optimistic

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THE 40,952 tickets booked for the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games is a far cry from the grand total of 1.2 million tickets up for sale but Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the Games would be a major success.

He said this after launching of the online tickets sales through the website of Ticket Express, the official ticketing body of the Games yesterday.

"The Government have approved the ticket prices which range from RM5 to RM500. The number of bookings may be small at the moment but we expect it to grow as the public would definitely want to witness the performance of world class athletes and support our athletes during the Games."

The Aquatics events registered the highest number of bookings with 12,991 tickets worth of RM1.58 million while 5,560 tickets worth RM1.49 million has been booked for the opening ceremony.

Tickets can be collected two months before the Games.

The public will now be able to make bookings through the official ticketing outlets, the website and the hotline services run by Ticket Express.

The tickets are also available from Sukom-authorized vendors.

Muhyiddin also added that Malaysia may even lobby for the Olympics in 20 years and it would depend on the success of the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games.

Any such bid for the Olympics would also be subject to Malaysia being awarded the 2006 Asian Games and successfully staging it, he said.

"We will prove to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) our country's ability to host major sporting events like the Commonwealth Games in the hope that they will entrust us with organising the Olympics before 2020."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday became the first person to book tickets on the Internet using the website www.ticketexpress.com.my.

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