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Games-traffic

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION STILL INEFFICIENT, SAYS MUHYIDDIN

By: David Chelliah

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- The traffic management system and public transportation for the 16th Commonwealth Games here in September is not efficient, said Minister of Youth and Sports Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Based on the recent pre-Commonwealth Games at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil here, he said there was no proper coordination in the traffic system and frequency of public transport available.

Besides the two important components that needed prompt attention, Muhyiddin also said there were slight problems in crowd control during and after the opening ceremony of the complex on July 11.

"These problems must be addressed as soon as possible," he told reporters after listening to a briefing from the 16 committees involved in the Commonwealth Executive Council at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil today.

He said the security and traffic committee would unveil a traffic system plan for the public for the opening and closing ceremonies for the games scheduled from Sept 11 to 21.

He said 30,000 leaflets containing information on public transport would be distributed to the public and he advised them to come early to the National Stadium for the opening or closing ceremonies.

Earlier in the day, Muhyiddin updated Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the latest progress of the Games at the Prime Minister's Department. The briefing lasted about an hour.

Muhyiddin said among others, he briefed Dr Mahathir on ticket sales and publicity.

"The Prime Minister is monitoring closely the progress of the Games," he said.

Muhyiddin also said Dr Mahathir would hand over the national flag "Jalur Gemilang" to the Malaysian contingent on Aug 12.

He also regretted that only 50 per cent of building owners in Kuala Lumpur had repainted and beautified their premises for the Games, advising those who had yet to do so to adhere to the Kuala Lumpur City Hall's directive.

On the venues, he said only the women's hockey stadium in Jalan Pantai here would be ready by Saturday.

Meanwhile, Sukom Ninety Eight Berhad, the organisers, hoped to trim down the operational budget by RM45 million following a financial review on the overall operational cost to be ready in two weeks' time.

Its executive chairman, Jen (Rtd) Tan Sri Hashim Mohd Ali, said the original budget of RM304 million was drawn up in 1994.

"I expect a reduction of between 10 and 15 per cent after the review. We find that certain things are not necessary now," he added.

-- BERNAMA

DC AO