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Call for more students in C'wealth Games activity

IPOH, Sat. - Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin called on State Education Departments and Parent-Teacher Associations to encourage more students to be involved in the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

"The two organisations should start working now and the private sector can contribute by sponsoring tickets for the students to watch the games," he said.

The minister said since special rates were given to schoolchildren, the department and PTAs could seek the reduced rates from school bus operators and Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad.

He was speaking to newsmen after launching the State-level Commonwealth Games promotion at Sekolah Tuanku Abdul Rahman today.

Muhyiddin said: "It must be noted that some events like lawn bowling and badminton are dominated by Commonwealth countries at the world level and as such the students would be watching world-class athletes taking part in these events.

"Students will also be exposed to the various ethnic cultures of participating countries."

Perak is the first State where the promotion among students was made on a large scale.

About 1,500 students took part in the ceremony.

Muhyiddin also said the public were welcome to join guided tours to the main sports complex at Bukit Jalil which will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 11.

Chairman of the State Education, Youth and Sports Datuk Abdul Malek Hanafiah said to date, the private sector in Perak had agreed to sponsor 70,000 tickets to the Games.

Eight athletes from Perak are representing the country in the Games.

At the function Muhyiddin also presented promotional items to district education officers and district officers to promote the Games in their respective areas.

Perak education department director Datuk Khairuddin Arshad also presented 686,888 one sen coins, collected from schools in the state, to the minister.

The one sen coins are for the purchase of tickets for the less fortunate.

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