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PM's help will be sought to obtain leave

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's help will be sought for volunteers to get time-off from their employers during the Commonwealth Games next month.

Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin gave his assurance to about 500 heads of volunteers that the Prime Minister will be informed of this need.

"This is an urgent matter which must be dealt with swiftly. It would jeopardise our preparations if the volunteers cannot get leave," said Muhyiddin at the National Aquatics Complex in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

"The employers will be contacted soon and the release of their respective employees will be regarded as their contribution towards making the Games the best ever staged.

"I shall also inform the Prime Minister of this matter and urge him to make a statement in this respect.

"Dr Mahathir has issued a directive that the organisers must run the Games smoothly and efficiently."

About 16,000 volunteers from all over Malaysia will be involved in the Games next month.

Most of them, especially those working in the private sector, face problems in getting leave during the duration of the Games while civil servants have been granted unrecorded leave.

Muhyiddin also stressed on the importance for the volunteers to be well-versed with information regarding the Games to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

"We must set a very high standard. We have excelled in various fields internationally and must ensure that the Malaysian standard in sports development is also world-class."

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