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Complex

GOVT TO ENGAGE LOCAL FIRM TO PROMOTE NATIONAL SPORTS COMPLEX

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The government will engage a local firm with international connections to intensively promote the Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex here, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

The Cabinet, at its recent meeting, had directed that promotions for the complex be intensified for more sport and non-sport activities to be held there, he said.

He said while the National Stadium Corporation had already drawn up plans for optimum use of the complex, the government reckoned that a more aggressive and professional approach was needed to market the facility.

Speaking to reporters after opening the 1999 meeting of the ministry's senior officials here, Muhyiddin said: "We will ensure that the firm appointed have foreign links as promotions will be held locally and abroad."

The RM800-million National Sports Complex, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last July 11, comprises the National (Main) Stadium, Putra (Indoor) Stadium, National Aquatic Centre, National Hockey Stadium and National Squash Centre.

Asked on claims of high rentals for facilities there, Muhyiddin said the rates were reasonable and special packages would be given to encourage national sports bodies to utilise the complex.

He said RM8 million was spent annually to maintain the complex whereas the actual allocation needed for its upkeep was between RM10 million and RM12 million a year.

"This sports complex is a long term investment and it is impossible to recoup the amount spent on it in the nearest term. The most important thing is how to utilise this facility for the benefit of all," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ARA ZUL RN