

05 OCT 1999

Sports-Asiad

INDONESIA PULLS OUT, SUPPORTS M'SIA FOR 2006 ASIAD HOST JOB

By: Openg Onn Net

JAKARTA, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Indonesia has decided not to bid for the 2006 Asian Games' host job in order to support Malaysia's bid to hold Asia's most prestigious sports showcase.

Indonesia's Youth and Sports Minister Agung Laksono, quoted by the Media Indonesia daily, said the decision was made in last week's Cabinet meeting.

He said President B J Habibie wanted Indonesia to support Malaysia's bid in order to ensure that an Asean member was given the honour to host the Games.

Habibie said Malaysia, after successfully staging the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, was in the best position to host the 15th Asiad.

Habibie said the move was also based on Malaysia's strong support for Indonesia in international diplomatic affairs.

Agung said he and Indonesian Sports Council (Koni) leaders would leave for Kuala Lumpur soon to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to state the official support from the Indonesian government.

Council chairman Wisaroyo Arismunana, when contacted said the body was no longer interested to bid for the 2006 Asiad.

"Apparently we are not pulling out just like that, but hoping the host nation would hold events where Indonesia can win medals," he said.

Malaysia and Indonesia were the two Asean nations which expressed interest in hosting the 2006 Asian Games apart from Qatar, Syria, India, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

Malaysia announced that it would bid for the 15th Asiad during the Bangkok Asian Games last year while Indonesia, at the Brunei SEA Games last August.

-- BERNAMA

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