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RM5mil funds for 2008 bid

Randhir Singh

THE bidding exercise for the 2006 Asian Games and 2008 Olympics will have an initial allocation of RM5 million.

Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday a paper will be submitted to the Treasury for the funds.

"We will also launch a Special Friends of the Bid programme in which we will invite sponsors to be our partners in the bidding. That would ease the financial burden on the government," said Muhyiddin.

He said Olympic Council of Malaysia president Tunku Imran Tuanku Ja'afar will chair a committee which will look for these corporate partners.

Muhyiddin was speaking after chairing the inaugural 2006 Asian Games and 2008 Olympics bid committee meeting. He also announced the names of the other committee members.

OCM will be represented by Tunku Imran, vice-president Datuk Alex Lee and secretary Siah Kok Chi. International Olympic Committee member Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah has also be included.

The others are the secretaries-general of the Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs, Information, and Tourism, Culture and Arts; Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff and National Sports Council director-general Datuk Mazlan Ahmad.

Also appointed are Malaysia Airlines chairman Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli, Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin and Proton chief executive officer Tengku Mahaleel Tengku Ariff.

Muhyiddin said a logo and mascot for the 2006 Asiad will be launched in March.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the People's Support Programme for the bids during the Olympic Council of Asia executive board meeting in Kuala Lumpur in April.

Muhyiddin said the committee will also prepare the bid document which will include the number of sports to be contested, additional facilities required, both sports and non-sports, including the Games Village.

He said Malaysia will also send a delegation to Tashkent for the secretaries of National Olympic Committees meeting in April to promote the 2006 bid.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia will adhere strictly to the OCA and IOC guidelines.

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