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Sports-Hishammuddin

MALAYSIA INTENSIFIES PROMOTIONS PRIOR TO OCA MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will utilise the next three weeks prior to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) meeting in Pusan, South Korea on Nov 12 to intensify promotions for her bid to host the 2006 Asian Games.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the promotions had to be intensified as the meeting would decide on the host for the games.

"I will visit the Asean member countries which I have not visited yet namely the Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar in efforts to promote Malaysia as host for the 2006 Asian Games," he said after receiving the sponsorship pledge and registration for the People's Run 2006, here today.

He had already visited several Gulf countries, West Asia and Southeast Asia to promote Malaysia's bid.

"There is keen competition among bidders to host the games and Malaysia has done its best to highlight its bid, I'm confident intensified promotions before the final decision will help," Hishammuddin said.

He said that at the OCA meeting on Nov 12, Malaysia would highlight the advantages it had and would not touch on the other countries who were also keen to host the games.

"We will bring the video on Malaysia's successful hosting of the Commonwealth Games 1998 and hope it would be of help. At the meeting in Pusan, Malaysia would be represented by the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) president Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Ja'afar, Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff and myself to present our bid to host the games," he said.

Besides Malaysia, Qatar, India and Hong Kong are also bidding to host the games.

On the People's Run 2006, he said three million participants were expected to take part in the run which would be held simultaneously throughout the country on Saturday.

"Based on the number of people who had registered so far, which had exceeded 1.3 million, the expected turnout is not impossible to achieve.

The People's Run 2006 is an effort carried out by the ministry to assist Malaysia in the bid to host Asiad 2006.

The run would demonstrate to the OCA the people's determination and commitment to host the games, he said.

The run would involve 14 locations throughout the country and would be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Muhamad at the Dataran Merdeka.

-- BERNAMA

KAY AZZ AO