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MALAYSIA OFFERS "READY AND WILLING" PACKAGE IN BID TO HOST 2006 ASIAD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- With the slogan of "Ready and Willing", Malaysia is ready to accept responsibility to host the 2006 Asian Games, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said today.

He said the slogan formed a package in the official bid documents by Kuala Lumpur for the hosting of the 2006 Asiad which would be submitted to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Kuwait on Thursday.

The documents would be handed over to the OCA by Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) secretary Siew Kok Chi and Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Hishammuddin said Malaysia would submit 15 reasons why Kuala Lumpur should be awarded the host job.

"We are prepared to host the event," he said at the function here to hand over the documents to Siew who would leave for Kuwait tonight.

He said Siew would also hand over a letter from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to OCA president Sheikh Ahmad to show that efforts to bid for the 2006 Asiad host job not only came from the people of Malaysia but also right from its supreme leadership.

Hishammuddin said he would once again visit several West Asian nations to garner support and obtain feedback on Malaysia's chances of hosting the event.

"I will visit Yemen, Syria, Lebanon and also Kuwait to meet with the OCA president middle of next month. This is another effort by Kuala Lumpur to win the bid.

"Deputy Minister (Datuk Ong Tee Keat) is now in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan dan Kyrgyzstan," he said.

Hishammuddin also said Kuala Lumpur would intensify its promotions on the seriousness of Malaysia's bid to host the 2006 Asian Games.

He said Malaysia would make known of its intention when attending international conferences like the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.

"Malaysian envoys in Asian countries will also give us regular feedback. Programmes like the Walk For The Nation will be modified and held in November," he said.

He said Malaysia would get the true picture on the OCA regulations in connection with the guidelines on bidding to host the Asian Games.

At the 17th annual National Olympic Committee meeting in Rio De Janeiro last month, Hong Kong and New Delhi provided special gifts to OCA delegates who attended the event.

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