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Sports-Asiad (Inspection)

OCA DELEGATION ARRIVES TOMORROW FOR INSPECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 16 (Bernama) -- Kuala Lumpur, a bid city for the 2006 Asian Games, will face the first test when a high-powered foreign inspection team scrutinises facilities over a two-day hectic schedule from tomorrow.

Two-and-half-hours after arriving from New Delhi, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Evaluation Committee headed by its vice-president, Muhammad Latif Butt, will get down to work immediately with the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here being the first stop.

There, the OCA committee will be taken to a tour of the National Sports Complex which includes the aquatic and squash centres, hockey stadium and the National Sports Council (NSC) building.

Besides Muhammad Latif, four others in the committee are OCA treasurer Santiparb Tejavaniya, Mikako Sugiura, chairman of athletes committee, Dr Muwaffak Fawaz, a member of the Sports Committee and Vinod Tiwari, manager of international relations who will act as the coordinator.

Besides the National Sports Complex, the committee will also tour University Putra Malaysia (UPM), the Games' Village site and the proposed venue for tennis.

Other facilities to be visited are the Petronas Training Centre, University Tenaga Nasional (Uniten), Shah Alam Stadium, Shah Alam Aquatic Centre and Pyramid Bowl.

The committee will call off the day with a dinner hosted by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein who is the Kuala Lumpur 2006 Bid Committee joint-chairman at the Petronas Twin Towers.

On Tuesday, the committee is scheduled to make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office in Putrajaya in the afternoon.

The committee will kick-off the day by visiting the Mines Convention Centre, take a ride in the light rail transit (LRT) train from Sri Petaling to Bandar Tun Razak.

They will also tour the city's velodrome, the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC) and will have lunch hosted by Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamarulzaman Sharif at Menara Kuala Lumpur.

The committee will wind-up the visit with a dinner hosted by the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) at the Royal Selangor Club.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur 2006 Bid Committee member Sieh Kok Chi said the OCA Evaluation Committee's visit was mandatory according to the procedures outlined for a bid city.

He said the committee would like to inspect and seek clarification on the proposals contained in the bid document submitted by Kuala Lumpur to OCA on June 28.

The committee will head for Hong Kong for a similar visit before submitting reports on all the four bid cities to OCA.

The other two bidding cities are Doha (Qatar) and New Delhi, India.

OCA delegates will vote for the successful city during the OCA General Assembly in Pusan City, South Korea, on Nov 12.

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