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SEA-Mahathir

MAKE GAMES THE BEST EVER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed confidence that Malaysia can successfully organise the 21st SEA Games just like it has done for the 1998 Commonwealth Games and other major sporting events.

He hoped that volunteers, workers and all others involved in organising the Games, which officially opens on Saturday, would make the biennial regional sporting extravaganza the best ever.

The prime minister said this in his message to all those involved in organising the Games, the first of the new millennium.

His message was read out by Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein after the final dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here tonight.

Dr Mahathir said the rehearsal was important for perfect management of the opening ceremony for the Games, the fifth organised by Malaysia.

"Show the world that we are capable of organising this SEA Games the way we have made a success of the Commonwealth Games," he said.

He urged the more than 6,000 volunteers and other workers to place the interests of the country above everything else and not to be distracted by any shortcomings that might arise.

Dr Mahathir extended his appreciation to the 8,500 security forces personnel and staff from other government agencies who are involved in the running of the Games.

He said they should feel honoured for being part of the Games as their contributions could not be measured in terms of money.

Hishammuddin also said the Cabinet was proud of the commitment shown by Malaysians to make a success of the Games, especially those involved in its organisation.

The opening ceremony involves 2,001 members of the Rakan Muda choir, 70 drummers of various races, 1,400 participants of the "human formation" and 1,500 members of the multi-racial Waja Diri martial art group.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah will open the Games involving the 10 Asean countries.

-- BERNAMA

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