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Sports-SEA (Run)

TORCH RUN TO BE KNOWN AS SEA GAMES RUN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- The torch run for the 21st SEA Games here on Sept 8-17 will be now known as the SEA Games Run, said Youth and Sports Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Mahamad Zabri Min.

He said for greater impact, the torch would be flown across the South China Sea on board the Rakan Muda Experimental Aircraft after the run was completed in Sabah and Sarawak.

This would be another page of the nation's history in solo flight on board the Rakan Muda aircraft built under the ministry's Air Recreation Development Programme, he said after chairing the run's coordinating committee here today.

He said the term SEA Games Run was more appropriate as the words "Torch Run" would not clearly reflect the event.

Mahamad Zabri said Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) president Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Ja'far would receive the SEA Games flame his Brunei counterpart Pengiran Bendahara Sufri Bolkihah, on March 10 in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein would also be present at the function.

"The torch will be brought onto a Royal Malaysia Navy ship from Brunei to Labuan, the start of the SEA Games Run," he said.

Mahamad Zabri said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to begin the run in Labuan after which the torch would be brought to Sabah and Sarawak before being flown to Langkawi.

The aircraft would take off from Kuching and make a brief stopover in Pulau Tioman before proceeding to Langkawi, he said.

Mahamad Zabri said the maiden flight of the Zodiac CH601HD aircraft with registration number 9M-ERM was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 27, 1997.

So far it has clocked 920 flying hours.

It was the first aircraft assembled under a Rakan Muda concept and the first to land at the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

Mahamad Zabri said the SEA Games Run for the Peninsula would begin in Langkawi with the torch travelling through each state before arriving at the Merdeka Square here on Sept 7.

It will then be brought to the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil the next day for the opening ceremony of the 21st SEA Games.

-- BERNAMA

AZ AZZ ZUL