

06 AUG 2002
Chong-Sukma
ALL VENUES FOR SUKMA 2002 COMPLETED

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- All venues for the 27 sports events for the 2002 Malaysia Games (Sukma 2002) to be hosted by Sabah next month are now ready for use, Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today.

Except for a stretch of access road to the shooting range in Lok Kawi, where asphalt works were still in progress, the renovation and upgrading works on the rest of the venues here, in Papar and Penampang had been completed, paving the way for the staging of a successful games.

"We have spent about RM123 million to prepare the venues and its related infrastructures. We have saved a lot of money...We hope it would go beyond the ceiling expenditure of RM130 million," Chong told reporters after chairing the final main committee meeting of Sukma 2002, here today.

Chong also announced the appointment of Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin as the Chief-de-Mission for the Sabah contingent.

The Games' opening would be officiated by the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai on Sept 7 while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is officiating the closing on Sept 14.

Several local and national artistes including popular group Senario and pop singer Siti Nurhaliza would entertain the crowd during the opening and closing, respectively.

Meanwhile, Chong called for full support from all quarters to ensure the success of the Games.

Chong expressed the hope that the people would turn up in full at all the venues to celebrate the Games hosted by Sabah for the first time.

"It is an open invitation to all particularly those who live in and around Kota Kinabalu," he said.

Entrance to the opening and closing ceremony as well as to all competition venues are free of charge.

-- BERNAMA

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