

16 APR 2002
Sports-Sukma
SUKMA 2002 MAIN VENUE TO BE HANDED OVER IN JULY

KOTA KINABALU, April 16 (Bernama) -- The renovated and upgraded Likas Sports Complex, the main venue for the 9th Malaysia Games (Sukma) hosted by Sabah this year, is expected to be handed over par excellence to the government by end of July year.

Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today all works on the venue were progressing well ahead of schedule and there was no reason to believe that it could not be completed by then.

"We have no doubt that the main contractor, Demirama Sdn Bhd, can complete all works by the end of June and the official handing over of the venue can be held on July 28," he told a news conference after leading state cabinet ministers on a site inspection at the sports complex, near here.

Chong congratulated the Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin and ministry staff for having done a good so far to ensure there were no let ups in preparaing the venue.

Several problems relating to construction materials as well as the scale of renovations, threatened to delay works on the complex last year but it had since been sorted out and work went on smoothly albeit on a scaled down budget of RM73 million from the previous RM113 million.

Besides the main sports complex which was currently 75 per cent completed, preparation for 17 other venues in and around the city, including one in Papar, about 50km from here, were also progressing well, Chong said.

Some 7,000 athletes and officials from the whole nation would be competing in 27 sports in the biennial games from Sept 5-14.

Athletes from Brunei as well and the Northern Territory, Australia, had also been invited to participate in the games which will be opened by Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai and closed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Chong said Sabah was determined to make the games a success as "this is the biggest national event that comes our way...we are taking Sukma Sabah 2002 seriously."

He also expressed confidence that the accommodation facilities in the state capital would be more than enough to accommodate the huge convergence of people in the city during the sporting festival.

-- BERNAMA

JS AO