

15 AUG 2002

Sukma-Incentive

SABAH SUKMA WINNERS TO GET ADDITIONAL RM136,000 INCENTIVE

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- A total of RM136,000 has been placed in an incentive fund to reward Sabah medal winners in next month's Malaysia Games (Sukma) hosted by the state, Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman said today.

He said the exact amount to be given to the gold, silver and bronze medallists would be determined later by State Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin, who is the Sabah contingent's chief-de-mission.

This reward will be in addition to the standard cash incentives given by the Sabah Sports Council and the National Sports Council to athletes who excel at the national level.

Musa said this after receiving a cheque for RM100,000 from Everise Corporation being the company's contribution to the State Sukma Fund. It was presented by Everise president T.C. Goh.

Thanking Everise for the donation, Musa said he hoped other corporate organisations would be equally generous and contribute to the fund which has so far raised RM18 million.

"There is still time for them to come up with donations to the State Sukma Fund. The donations are tax exempted so I urge those who have yet to make their donation to do so," he said.

Musa said the state government had budgetted a total of RM132 million to host the biennial sporting event for the first time. Preparations for the Games, including all the venues for the 27 sports, were on schedule.

The Games would be opened by Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai on Sept 7 while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officiate at the closing on Sept 14.

Besides Malaysian states, the Games this time would also see the participation of Brunei and the Northern Territory of Australia.

-- BERNAMA

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