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SUKMA: 13 DEPARTMENT HEADS FROM NS ON STUDY MISSION

SEREMBAN, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Thirteen heads of department from Negeri Sembilan will be in Sabah to observe the staging of the ninth Malaysia Games (Sukma) as part of Negeri Sembilan's preparations for hosting the next games.

State executive councillor in charge of sports Zakaria Nordin said the trip would allow the department heads to get a first-hand view of the organisation of the biennial games, which will be held from Sept 5 to 14.

"This is one of the early steps taken to give them exposure as Negeri Sembilan will be hosting the 10th Sukma in 2004," he told reporters here today.

He said the department heads would be directly involved in organising the games in Negeri Sembilan, including on aspects of transport, accommodation and security.

Negeri Sembilan chef-de-mission Datuk Ismail Lasim said a 100-member cultural troupe from Negeri Sembilan would be performing at the closing ceremony of the games in Kota Kinabalu.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to hand over the Sukma flag to Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad at the closing ceremony, he said.

-- BERNAMA

RP YBY