

05 FEB 2003

Sports-Canoeing (Host)

M'SIA BIDS FOR ASIAN CANOEING MEET HOST JOB

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has offered to host the Asian Canoeing Championship 2003, said Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He said the move to bid for the event's host job was spurred by the encouraging response at the International Canoeing Invitational Championship held at the Tasik Putrajaya here.

Fifteen nations are taking part in the three-day invitational championship, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I hope it will catalyse the growth of watersport in the country as we have great potential like rivers and water catchment zones which can be used to develop the sport," he said after the function.

He said the government was prepared to provide the required infrastructures while the relevant sports bodies needed to play an active role to develop it at all levels of the society.

He said funds were available for the development of sports but it was up to the sports associations and officials to show their commitment.

"Sports development depends on the commitment of associations and officials entrusted to develop it at the grassroots level apart from unearthing and developing new talents in the game," he said.

Asked on whether canoeing would be included in the 2004 Malaysia Games, he said it was up to the host, Negeri Sembilan, to decide on it.

-- BERNAMA
MUN AHH ZUL