

**Parliament: SEA Games 2017 To Cost RM116 Million - M. Saravanan
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 30 (Bernama) -- A budget of RM116 million is needed for Malaysia to host the SEA Games 2017, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk M. Saravanan told the Dewan Negara.

He said the Olympic Council of Malaysia's proposal for Malaysia to host the Games, including the budget, would be tabled to the Cabinet next month for approval.

"It should be Brunei's turn to host the 2017 Games but it wants to host the 2019 edition instead as it is not ready for it.

"So, Malaysia has been offered to host the 2017 edition," he said when responding to a question from Senator Baharudin Abu Bakar during question time today.

Malaysia was given the right to host the regional biennial event in 2017 by the SEA Games Federation as there was no other country bid for the host job.

Saravanan said the Cabinet's approval would depend on the government's financial capability, athlete performance and adequate sports infrastructure.

"In terms of athlete performance, we will ensure that Malaysia take in sports that it has the competitive edge like lawn bowls, cycling, karate, silat, squash and tenpin bowling," he said, adding that SEA Games would be Malaysia's preparation for the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games.

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