

SARAWAKIANS CHECK INTO GAMES VILLAGE, FLAG PRESENTATION TOMORROW

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KUCHING: The Sarawak athletes are checking into University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) which is the Games Village for Sukma XVIII (July 22-31) while the grand flag-presentation will be held tomorrow (July 16).

Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem will hand over the state flag to the Sarawak contingent chef-de-mission Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah. All the state athletes are staying at the Games Village except for certain sports like golf, wushu, squash, petanque, diving and tenpin bowling that are exempted.

A simple flag-presentation will be held today (Friday) at 7.30am by Karim with more than 1,000 guests including athletes, officials, VIPs and volunteers in attendance.

Athletes from volleyball and badminton that are being held in Sibul and karate, sailing and sepak takraw that will be hosted in Miri also stay put at their accommodations in Sibul and Miri.

Athletes staying in the Games Village are from football, weightlifting, cycling, boxing, lawnbowls, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, diving, athletics, silat, hockey (men's and women's), archery and taekwondo.

Several programmes have been lined up to gear up the athletes for competition including briefings, talks, video sessions while athletes will also be in light training while at camp.

The preliminary rounds of football will be held at Unimas football fields starting early on July 17 while archery also starts at Unimas on July 21.

All 24 sport events will be held in 19 venues in Kuching, Samarahan, Sibul and Miri.

The opening ceremony is on July 23 and the closing ceremony on July 31 at the Sarawak Stadium which is also the venue for the blue riband track-and-field events.