

Tajuk : Unimas to be Games Village for SUKMA



SUKMA INVITE... Photo shows Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan receiving a letter of invitation from Sarawak Minister of Youth, Sports and Solidarity Dato Sri Michael Mannyin Jawong (right) when the former receives a courtesy call by Secretariat of SUKMA XVIII Sarawak 2016 yesterday in Seremban as Chairman of Human Resources Task Force of State's Youth and Sports Datuk Zaifulbahri Idris (left) looks on. PHOTO: BERNAMA

Unimas to be Games Village for SUKMA

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) in Kota Samarahan will be transformed into a 'Games Village' for the 18th SUKMA hosted by Sarawak from 17 to 31 July.

Unimas will be 'home' for more than 5,000 athletes who are expected to arrive in Sarawak for the SUKMA said Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) chief officer Dr Ong Kong Swee.

He said athletes from 15 state contingents and Brunei (participating as an invited team) will be arriving here in stages, starting 15 July.

Dr Ong said about 1,000 technical officials would be housed at the Institute of Teachers Education (IPG) Tun Abdul Razak Campus in Kota Samarahan while officials would be staying at two hotels, namely Kuching Hilton and Hotel Margareta.

Dr Ong said all the venues were ready except for final preparations like installation of sound system, display board and lighting system at some venues, while other venues have been completed ahead of schedule.

"So far we are satisfied with the level of preparations at the venues in Kuching, Sibu and Miri," Dr Ong told Bernama here yesterday.

State Secretary Tan Sri Datuk Amar Morshidi Abdul Ghani had said the state government had spent RM350 million to upgrade existing facilities and built new venues for the event held in Kuching, Sibu and Miri.

Most of the venues and facilities are already in use, including the main stadium (Sarawak Stadium) where the main events will be held.

Sarawak Youth, Sports and Unity Minister, Dato Sri Michael Mannyin Jawong said all existing courts and competition facilities

had been upgraded to international standard and a new hockey pitch had also been built.

"To ensure every venue met the international specification, Sarawak had set up a committee to evaluate every competition venue," said Mannyin.

One of the new venues is the RM163 million Sarawak Aquatic Centre situated next to the Sarawak and State Stadium in Petra Jaya here, which will host swimming and diving events.

Besides the aquatic centre, a new lawn bowls venue beside Stadium Perpaduan was completed in April at a cost of RM6 million.

In addition, the Sarawak Squash Centre, built at a cost of RM7 million and the RM12 million archery range were also completed in April this year, as well as the region's largest bowling centre, Megalanes Emart Batu Kawah Bowling Centre, in Kuching.

The newly completed facility which features 42-glossy lanes is now ready to host tenpin bowling while SibU will host badminton and volleyball and Miri plays host to karate, sepak takraw and sailing.

The 18th SUKMA will feature 24 sports - aquatics, archery, athletics, badminton, tempin bowling, cycling, football, hockey, karate, lawn bowls, sailing, shooting, silat, squash, sepak takraw, taekwondo, weightlifting, wushu, volleyball, boxing, gymnastics, golf, petanque and tennis.

According to Dr Ong, among sports that will kick off early are football, rhythmic gymnastics, taekwondo and karate.

Sarawak who were the overall champions in 1990, 1992 and 1994 have set their sights firmly on wresting the title as athletes from the state will be competing in all 24 sports. - Bernama