

Zolkples hopes attention will be on Sukma now

By K. LIVINGESHAN

PETALING JAYA: The National Sports Council (NSC) marked the 50-day countdown to the 16th Malaysia Games (Sukma) with the launching of the official games website by director general Datuk Seri Zolkples Embong (*pic*) yesterday.

Now that the general elections are over, Zolkples hopes that attentions will turn to the local sports scene when the games kick off from June 28 to July 7 in Kuala Lumpur.

"Sports is not limited by any barriers, racial or political. We hope the Malaysia Games will bring the people together. We hope the attention will now be on the Games," said Zolkples.

The games, which is now held annually, will see the introduction of three new events — woodball, muai thai boxing and beach football.

All 14 states will be involved in the 20 sports contested during the Games.

Preparation for the Games began last year and the budget is estimated to be around RM9mil.

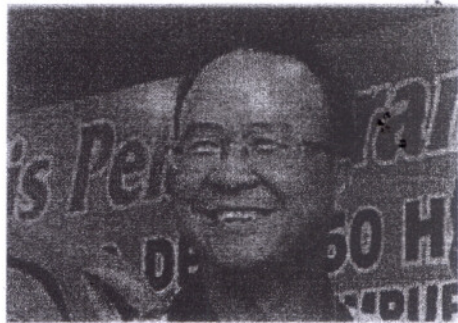
"This amount is lower compared to the amount spent by the other hosts because they have to build facilities for the various sports. We have all the facilities in place in Bukit Jalil.

We also spend minimal amount on the opening and closing ceremonies."

The athletes will be housed at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang which will double up as the Games Village.

Zolkples added that for the first time they will screen the athletes' entries to prevent glitches like double entries or dual state participation.

"We will hold a meeting with all the participating teams to thrash out all the details on the athletes to make sure they can compete in the Games without any problems."



Sukma sports

1. Aquatics (men and women), 2. Badminton (men), 3. Handball (men and women), 4. Netball, 5. Basketbal (men and women), 6. Futsal and Beach Football (men and women), 7. Volleyball (men and women), 8. Equestrian, 9. Artistic Gymnastics (men and women), 10. Judo (men and women), 11. Kabaddi (men and women), 12. Cricket (men), 13. Fencing (men and women), 14. Rowing (men and women), 15. Muai Thai boxing (men and women), 16. Table tennis (men and women), 17. Rugby (men), 18. Silambam (men and women), 19. Softball (men and women), 20. Woodball (men and women).