

Launching of Sukma Village at UMS

ALTHOUGH an important national event the Malaysia Games or Sukma is not merely a sporting occasion where going for gold is the number one objective.

Bagging as many gold medals as possible may be the mission of each of the 20 competing contingents but Chief Minister, Datuk Chong Kah Kiat reminded everyone the importance of maintaining the spirit of co-operation and harmony for the success of the games.

He said a national event such as Sukma helped in promoting unity and national integration among Malaysians of diverse racial and religious backgrounds.

"I hope that the choice of Sabah as host to this Games would allow members from the various contingents to get to know Sabah better," he said at the launching of the Ninth Sukma Village at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Sports Complex yesterday.

Aside from competing, he further hoped the visiting athletes would get a chance to interact with the locals and visit the many places of interest here.

"Sabah is renowned as a harmonious state that is ethnically and culturally diverse with its own set of beliefs. The State is also lucky to be endowed with so much natural beauty, making it a premier eco-tourism destination," he added.



He said the State government had put in a lot of effort to provide the best facilities for the ease and comfort of the athletes, officials and volunteers.

Almost RM73 million was spent in upgrading facilities at the Likas Sports Complex and RM132 million in the preparation and organisation of the Games.

"The choice of UMS as the official Sukma Village for the athletes and officials is appropriate because of the tranquil surroundings and beautiful landscaping," he said.

He believed that with the modern facilities at their disposal, athletes at the village would be comfortable throughout the duration of the Games.

After completing his speech, Kah Kiat was escorted by UMS Vice Chancellor and Committee Chairman of the Sukma Village Tan Sri Prof. Dr. Abu Hassan Othman to meet the various heads of contingents and the athletes.



UNIFIED SPIRIT THROUGH A MULTI-SPORT GAME... Kah Kiat signing the plaque to commemorate the occasion.