

Proper coordination vital for success of Games



By FRED LEONG

KOTA KINABALU: Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin said the smooth and consistent release of results of daily events, proper coordination in transportation, accommodation and proper food handling are most important if Sabah wants to stage the Ninth Malaysia Games (Sukma 2002) successfully.

Apart from hoping its athletes achieve the targeted 39 gold medals in the biennial Games, these are the main agendas which must be properly addressed if Sabah wants to be termed as one of the best organisers of the country's biggest sporting event.

These are among the most important tasks to be considered because most if not all the 20 contingents' top-notch officials, including Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers are always harping on these aspects.

During the recent road show, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who is also chairman of the Sukma Central Committee, reminded Sabah to look into these areas seriously to avoid any embarrassment.

That was why the Sukma State Organising Committee, headed by Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat has painstakingly formed 20 formidable committees respectively headed by very senior, experienced and high-ranking civil servants.

All the respective committee chairmen were hand-picked and appointed to head their own committees to ensure success.

The main organising committee has appointed ICT (the infor-



LAUNCHED...Datuk Yahya Hussin launching the two-day workshop assisted by the workshop organising chairman Ismail Ibrahim (left), while Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Abu Hassan Othman and Datuk Noni Said (partly hidden) look on.

mation technology unit) to ensure up to date results of daily events.

The Permanent Secretary to the Infrastructure Development Ministry Datuk Yunus Ghani heads the committee for transportation, while the Mayor Datuk Ghani Rashid heads the food committee.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) vice-chancellor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Abu Hassan Othman himself is in charge of accommodation at the UMS Games Village.

Yahya was speaking at the opening of the two-day intensive Sukma Games Village Management Workshop, organised by UMS and his Ministry at the

UMS yesterday, where more than 150 senior members of all the 20 committees are participating.

Experienced officers namely, Jalil Abdullah from the National Sports Council (NSC), Nasru Haji Ismail, who was the past Games Village chairman in the 2000 Sukma in Pulau Pinang and Mazlan Salleh from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia are the main speakers of the workshop.

Yahya stressed that all these officers were specially flown here and invited to conduct the workshop merely for the sake of seeing that the various committees' machinery would be carried out accordingly throughout the Sukma without any complaints

or incidents.

He was optimistic that if all the officials from the various committees learn and acquire the vital knowledge from these experts, he sees no reason why they could not carry out their respective tasks as expected.

"Success as organisers all depends very much in the overall attitude, or simply commitment of the athletes, coaches, team managers, volunteers, government officials, co-ordinators, corporate institutions, all the committee officials and personnel as well as technical staff," said Yahya.

"Officials and volunteers from the various committees are the State's ambassadors who will be directly involved in looking after the 7,000 visitors from Peninsular Malaysia, Brunei and the Northern Territory of Australia coming for the Sukma," he added.

A majority of the athletes and officials are first-timers to Sabah and Yahya called on all those involved in the Sukma to reflect the friendliness of Sabahans towards the visitors, which would help the State Government's quest for a successful Sukma.

He commended the speakers for the workshop and also UMS.