YOG organisers set up operations at Games Village

By Patwant Singh | Posted: 07 June 2010 2211 hrs

SINGAPORE : Organisers of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) have moved into the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) campus to set up operations for the Games, which take place on August 14-26.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, Vivian Balakrishnan, toured the Village on Monday to see how preparations are coming along.

The minister got a first-hand look at the rooms which athletes will use during the Games. Ten hostel blocks out of 16 at NTU will house more than 5,000 athletes and officials at the Village.

A temporary kitchen, which will serve 20,000 meals daily, has been set up. Security has also been improved and a World Culture Village will allow athletes to interact and learn more about each other.

Dr Balakrishnan said: "In most places, if you go to a village at this stage, two months before, you will see a construction site, whereas here we already have an established site which we are now renovating."

Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Teo Ser Luck, has been appointed the Mayor of the Village. He will be assisted by veteran athletes C Kunalan and Joscelin Yeo.

Mr Teo said: "One of us will reside inside the Games Village. We will have to look at the different situation and scenarios. We will decide later. I think it is important because at any point of time when there is a need for our attention, the team can call upon us to help them."

In late-July, there will be validation exercises to ensure everything is in order.

The Games Village will be officially opened on August 10. When fully operational, the Village will have a workforce of more than 2,000, half of whom will be volunteers.

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