ABUJA CITY READY FOR 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Federal Capital City will be fully ready to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Minister Nasir el-Rufai has assured.

The Minister made this commitment when he received the Chairman of the Committee bid, General Yakubu Gowon (rtd) who paid a courtesy call on him in Abuja.

The Minister stated that by 2014 Abuja will have a population of 13 million with four million people living in the centre city.

In addition 12 satellite towns will have been fully built-up with all infrastructures and facilities in place to host the games without any hitch, and profitably too. Already, the valedrome at the National Stadium destroyed by the rainy winds last year will be reconstructed by the contractor, Julius Berger Nigeria, immediately after the rains.

Abuja, the Minister stressed, is being programmed, to be the tourism, sports and conference centre of Nigeria.

He pledged, within the next two years of his tenure, to co-operate with the Gowon led committee in ensuring Nigeria wins the bid to host the international games.

In his opening remarks, General Gowon, called on all Nigerians to support the bid for the glory of Nigeria.

The former Head of State, who successfully hosted the All African Games in 1973, said Abuja was recommended as the sports city because of its uniqueness as the centre of Nigerian unity, serenity, topography and availability of standard sporting facilities.

Also, he added there exists good hostels, roads network, communication facilities and parks and garden.

General Gowon said that Abuja has hosted several international games and conferences such as COJA games and CHOGOM.

He said that his visit was designed to make FCDA a major stakeholder in the games and called on Nigerians to support the bid for the hosting of the games.

General Gowon led a 17-man delegation that included reputed sports administrators such as Chief Molade Okoya Thomas, Alh. Babayo Shehu and Engineer Gumel.

Obi Adiele
Technical Assistant (Media)

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