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Najib-Bosnia

STUDENTS, TEACHERS CHIP IN RM3.2 MILLION FOR A BOSNIAN SCHOOL

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- A school destroyed in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be rebuilt with financial aid totalling more than RM3.2 million donated by Malaysia students and teachers, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the school, which would be identified soon with the cooperation of the Bosnian government, would be a symbol of friendship between the students and teachers of Malaysia and their counterparts in the Balkan state.

"The school in Sarajevo will become a permanent landmark as proof of the struggle of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was firm and brave in the Bosnian cause, with the support of all Malaysians," he told reporters after handing over the Bosnia Educational Aid Fund to Dr Mahathir, here.

Dr Mahathir is expected to hand over the money over to the Bosnian government during his visit to Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia middle of this month. The fund was launched by Najib on Jan 24.

Najib said the financial aid would be continued so that the school could be restored to its original form.

"We hope the school can provide the best education to the Bosnian children," he said.

Asked whether the Bosnian students could continue their studies in Malaysia although the situation in the war-ravaged country had improved, he said, "our aim is for them to receive education here temporarily... they have to return to Bosnia to play their role in the reconstruction of their country."

Students and teachers in Kedah were the biggest contributors to the fund totalling RM464,652, followed by Pulau Pinang (RM320,617), Pahang (RM305,141) and Kelantan (RM300,000).

In his speech, Najib said although efforts to raise money for the fund were through sincere contributions all the schools showed seriousness in making the fund a reality.

He said he was happy that the donations were received from students and teachers of all races and religions.

"This means, the Bosnian issue does not only prick the hearts and souls of the Muslim community in Malaysia but also the non-Muslims who shared the sympathy by contributing generously to the fund," he added. -- Bernama

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