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ANNUAR TO REPRESENT MAHATHIR AT MICRO-CREDIT SUMMIT

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa will represent Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the inaugural Micro-Credit Summit at the United Nations next month.

Annuar said the decision was made by the Cabinet recently and he would speak on Malaysia's experience in fighting poverty at the Feb 2 to 4 meeting.

The UN is seeking to help 100 million poor families throughout the world between now and the year 2005, he told reporters here today.

Annuar said Malaysia had implemented the micro-credit system in 1989 with the cooperation of the private sector and non-governmental organisations to help provide small loans to poor families.

As a result of the flexible loans, many of the families have achieved success in various fields and are no longer below the poverty line, he said.

The minister said there are currently 20,000 poor families in Malaysia and the ministry has launched programmes to help 4,000 families each year.

-- BERNAMA

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