

15/06/1998

Dana nets RM3 million at launch

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Patriotism came to the fore today when the Barisan Nasional Youth-initiated Fund For Malaysia, to help the government tide over the economic downturn, netted RM3 million at its launch.

BN Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the fund launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would receive contributions from the public until July 15.

Ahmad Zahid, who is Umno Youth chief, said donations to the fund would also be collected in States.

Proceeds from the fund would be channelled to the National Special Fund which had todate raised about RM3 million from the people's contributions in the form of cash, jewellery and foreign currencies.

The Finance Ministry-managed National Special Fund launched on March 6 was to make it possible for the people to donate cash and kind to help stimulate the country's economy.

Among those present at the Fund for Malaysia launch were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, BN secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat, MCA president Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk S. Seri Samy Vellu and leaders of the component parties.

At the launch, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak presented a mock cheque for RM30,000 to Dr Mahathir on behalf of Umno followed by leaders of the other BN component parties.

Ahmad Zahid himself handed a mock cheque for RM280,000 on behalf of the BN Youth.

Among the companies which donated were Bandaraya Development Group (RM1 million), DRB Hicom Group (RM500,000), United Engineers Malaysia and Projek Lebuh raya Utara Selatan (RM300,000), HVD (RM100,000), Telekom Malaysia (RM100,000), Permodalan Nasional Berhad (RM100,000), Golden Hope Group (RM50,000) and Penerbitan Jaya Bakti and Powertek Berhad RM10,000 each.

It was a rare treat for the 3,000 spectators when 16 parachutists who took part in the North Pole free fall expedition last month displayed their skills, jumping from 6,000 metres in their colourful parachutes to land centre of the field.

The Proton Wira which also landed along with the parachutists in the North Pole was also on display.

In the morning, there was an hour-long cultural show by 15 artistes from Recording Industry Malaysia and a Royal Malaysian Police tattoo.

Top Malaysian rally driver Karamjit Singh also gave a racing demonstration to the appreciative crowd.

A veteran of 13 years, Karamjit has brought fame to Malaysia and PERT by winning the Asia-Pacific Drivers' Championship title last year.

In addition, 40 stalls were set up to showcase made-in-Malaysia goods, for sale and promotion.

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