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Zahid-Fund

FUND FOR MALAYSIA NETS RM3 MLN ON LAUNCHING DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 14 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth-initiated Fund For Malaysia to enable Malaysians to help the government tide over the economic downturn netted RM3 million on the launching day today.

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.

Donations for the fund would also be collected in states, said Ahmad Zahid, who is also Umno Youth chief.

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, he told reporters.

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.

The Fund For Malaysia launched at the BN Carnival at the Merdeka Square here was made more lively with the performance by local artistes, parachute jump by the 16 members of the recent Malaysian expedition to the North Pole and a parade of Proton cars.

Ahmad Zahid said although no specific target had been set for the fund, the movement hopes to collect a substantial amount so as not to be accused by the people that " we asked people to donate but we ourselves did not do anything.

" So, we initiated the fund by taking the lead to contribute our bit for the country's economy," he said.

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 towards the fund are 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.

Dr Mahathir took a stroll around the stalls selling a wide range of Made-In-Malaysia products in efforts to promote local goods and services among the people.

More than 3,000 people attended the one-day carnival which featured lion dances, traditional Indian drum display and rendition of songs and music by local artistes.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ/RV TS