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Fund to help boost economy stands at RM454,000

Eirmalasang Bani

THE National Charity Fund, set up to accept public donations and contributions in an effort to assist the Government speed up the economic recovery, has collected RM454,000 to date.

The Fund, established under Section 9 of the Financial Procedure Act 1957, was first announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in January this year.

It comes under the purview of the Treasury and managed by the Accountant-General's Office.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Wong See Wah said contributions were in the form of the local currency, foreign currencies, jewellery and other assets.

Wong, speaking at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, said the Government has also appointed Bank Simpanan Nasional, Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Bhd and Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd as the collection centres for the contributions.

"There were no proper channels or agents appointed for this purpose before. In fact, some donations were made directly to Dr Mahathir," he added.

Bank Simpanan Nasional has 490 branches and 600 automated teller machines (ATMs) to accept contributions in the form of local or foreign currencies.

Bank Islam has 75 branches to accept not only the local or foreign currencies. Its Selayang and Medan Mara branches also accept jewellery.

Bank Rakyat will accept jewellery at its 56 branches which operate under the Ar-Rahn scheme.

The public can donate through these banks' branches up to April 6 this year.

Asked as to why there is a timeframe for such donations, Wong said: "There is an urgency... if we wait too long, they (donors) may delay making such donations."

Besides currencies and jewellery, those interested to give donations in other forms of assets can write in to the Treasury or e-mail at admin@treasury.gov.my.

They have to give in their names and addresses, types of pledges, estimated values of their contributions and copies of the relevant documents.

Wong said the the money donated will be placed in a consolidated fund while Bullion House (Precious Metal House Sdn Bhd) will sell the jewellery overseas for the US dollars or the pound.

Yesterday, Wong had on behalf of the Fund received donations from nine companies, namely Tanjung Bhd, Magnum Corporation Bhd, Sports Toto (M) Bhd, Palmgold Sdn Bhd, Waz Lian Group of Companies, Repco Sdn Bhd, RGB Sdn Bhd, Somascan (M) Sdn Bhd and Spanco.

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