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Zaleha-coins

GOVT WORRIED ABOUT REFUSAL TO USE ONE SEN COINS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The government is worried that the people's preference for the RM1 coin over small denominations like the one sen coin may have negative impact on the fixing of the minimum price of goods, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today.

She said that if the people did not value the one sen coin, there was a big possibility that in future the minimum price of goods would be fixed in ringgit instead of sen.

"This concern was expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a recent cabinet meeting and he urged the people to value the small denomination coins like the one and five sen," she told reporters after closing the One Sen Fun campaign at Bank Negara, here.

She said that rather than throw away the one sen coins it was better to put them in the boxes provided at shopping complexes and banks to help the poor.

She urged the corporate organisations and department stores to continue collecting the one sen coins for charity instead of doing it for certain periods only.

She praised the campaign organisers for managing to collect RM221,464.31 in one sen coins for the nine-month campaign period.

Campaign organising committee chairman Datuk A. Kadir Jasin said the collection would be used to enable 1,000 poor people from welfare homes and the orang asli to attend the 16th Commonwealth Games here.

Kadir, who is also group editor-in-chief of NSTP, said the money would be used to pay for the games tickets, accommodation and souvenirs.

He said although the campaign had ended, the one sen collection would be continued through The Malay Mail Welfare Fund.

-- BERNAMA

AKT JK