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SEE WAH-FUND/BM

PUBLIC CAN STILL CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL SPECIAL FUND

KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- Individuals or organisations could still contribute to the national special fund although the campaign to encourage the public to contribute to the fund would be stopped, deputy finance minister Datuk Wong See Wah said here today.

"The campaign would not be continued but the public could still make their contributions," he added.

This was because it would take some time for the various bodies to settle their activities pertaining to the contributions before channelling it to the fund, Wong told reporters after receiving more than RM6.1 million in property and cash from companies and organisations here.

He said the deadline not to accept any more contributions has not been determined.

Wong said from March 6 to today, total contributions and pledges received stood at RM30 million, including the amount collected today.

He said initially, the campaign was scheduled for only a month from March 6 but it was extended to July 6 due to encouraging response.

The largest contribution today came from Country Heights Bhd, amounting to RM5,003,564 in the form of property while its workers contributed RM20,000 in cash. The contributions were handed over by the company's marketing director Ong Chong Sek.

The Sime Darby group and Malayan Banking Bhd contributed RM500,000 each, while Wanita UMNO contributed RM82,500, Konsortium Pengilang Perabot Logam Sdn Bhd RM20,000 and Federation of Textiles General Goods & Garments Merchants Association Malaysia, RM10,000.

As for contributions in the form of goods like jewellery, Wong said there would be a special ceremony to auction these goods, including that contributed by prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Wong said the contributions would be deposited in the consolidated account and could only be utilised through a supplementary budget tabled in Parliament.

-- BERNAMA

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