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RM50,000 boost to Special National Fund

Adeline Ong

THE Special National Fund received an additional RM50,000 yesterday with donations from KL International Airport Bhd (KLIA Berhad) and MBf Finance Berhad.

KLIA Berhad's executive chairman Tan Sri Clifford Herbert presented 185 gold coins to Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Wong See Wah while MBf's executive vice president Mr Ooi Chee Kok presented 111 gold coins.

The gold coins weighed 5.2 grammes each. KLIA Berhad's 185 gold coins were valued at RM40,000 while MBf's 111 gold coins were valued at RM10,000.

To date, the fund stands at RM2.626 million with local currency worth RM1.944 million, foreign currencies (RM80,563), gold (RM301,350 or 7.35 kg) and gems (RM300,000).

The Government appointed Bank Simpanan Nasional as the receiving agent for local and foreign currencies while Bank Islam and Bank Rakyat were given charge of accepting valuables.

Meanwhile, Wong announced that the Public Services Department (PSD) has agreed to approve the resolution discussed between Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) and Dr Mahathir on April 21 1998.

The resolution calls for civil servants, which were not involved in the allowance cut according to the official circular number 11, 1997, to contribute RM10 or 1 per cent of their 1997 bonus to the fund.

"All these donations can be collected at monthly or weekly meetings between the management and their employees. It can be done through Cuepacs' representatives at departments or the various ministries," he said.

The closing date for the collection from Cuepacs is June 30 1998.

"All ministries' secretaries-general, states' secretaries, heads of departments, statutory bodies and local authorities are responsible to make the collection a success. The closing date for collection and donations is June 30 1998," he said.

Wong also urged the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) to request its members to donate to the fund.

He also explained that the Finance Ministry has directed the Customs and Police Departments accumulate the seized gold and surrender them to the Government at the end of next week.

He reminded the Customs and Police Departments to follow all procedures before surrendering the gold to the fund.

Wong also said that there will be a special talk held by the Finance Ministry on May 25 to selected associations on the current economic situation of the country.

"It is also hoped that Menteris Besar and chief ministers will hold collections in their states. In addition to that, the private sector has also been urged to give their cooperation to the fund," he said.

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