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SARAWAK LABOUR COUNCIL LAUDS MOVE ON RESERVE FUND

KUCHING, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Labour Council today welcomed the Federal Government's move to set up a special body to accept donations and contributions from within the country to increase Malaysia's reserves.

Council president William Ghani Bina described it as a good move that deserved the people's support as this would help lift the country from the the current economic doldrums.

However, Ghani who is also chairman of the Sarawak branch of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC), said the government must be transparent and ensure a strong element of accountability in the administration of the donations by making known regularly through the mass media the amount collected.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who made the announcement yesterday said voluntary contributions could be made in any form, including property, goods, jewellery and cash.

Ghani said the setting up of the body to manage the donations should not be viewed as an indication that the country's economic fundamental were weak but rather an added mechanism to cushion off the effect following the depreciation of the ringgit and the stock market.

He called on multinationals which had made good business in the country to make donations as a goodwill gesture. -- BERNAMA

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