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Kosovo-Fund

CABINET WANTS COORDINATION ON KOSOVO FUNDS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- The Rural Development Ministry and Treasury have been directed to prepare a proposal paper on the coordination of donation drives for the war victims in Kosovo.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said the proposal paper would, among other things, spell out ways to channel the donations.

The Cabinet today called for the drawing up of the paper which should be presented at its meeting next week, said Annuar, who is performing the duties of the Foreign Minister.

"We want all donations made in the name of relief for Kosovo refugees to be managed properly and channelled to the right target groups," he told reporters after signing a condolence book which was opened here following the death of Kyrgyz Prime Minister Jumabek Brahimov on Sunday.

Annuar said the government felt that all donations should be channelled through the International Red Cross Society.

He urged those who have started their fund-raising drives to contact Wisma Putra to ensure donations can be properly extended to the victims.

Annuar said the Malaysian government sympathised with the plight of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and would consider giving them its own contribution.

Several charitable bodies, non-governmental organisations, and media organisations have started their own funds for the Kosovo refugees who now number almost one million following the outbreak of war in the Balkan region last March 24.

The Malaysian Youth Council, New Straits Times Press, Utusan Malaysia and TV3 have launched the Kosovo Action Front Fund while the Sarawak government has donated RM250,000 to be channelled through Wisma Putra.

Annuar also said Kyrgyz President Akaev Askar would visit Malaysia this July on the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

RV AHH YBY