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Pak Lah to head rural development special task force

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Cabinet today decided to set up a Special Task Force on Rural Development to better address problems in the rural areas, especially the quality of life of rural folk.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said the task force will be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said the task force, which will be part of the Cabinet Committee on Rural Development, will consist of various ministries and agencies.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will announce the members of the task force soon."

Annuar said problems or progress related to the implementation of rural development such as poverty eradication and infrastructure projects are among matters which will be tackled by the task force and reported to the Cabinet.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with ministry officials today, he said the formation of the special task force was a positive development to better tackle problems in the rural areas.

He said it was also timely as the ministry was handling more rural projects this year.

"In-line with the Government's effort to promote a people-friendly administration, the ministry will work together with the task force to overcome problems faced in such areas."

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