

NGOs to play bigger role with rising prices

GEORGE TOWN: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be given a bigger role in assisting the Government in programmes to help the lower income group in the wake of escalating oil and food prices.

Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop said the Government was studying the mechanisms which could be implemented to enhance the NGOs' roles in helping the needy.

"We are studying ways and methods to channel allocations and funds to them to help us assist the poor.

"We will also use their social

network to reach out to the needy in the wake of the escalating fuel and food prices," he said when opening the 2008 National Kidney Foundation Patients Forum at Cititel Hotel here yesterday.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would also include the NGOs' participation when tabling the annual Budget on Aug 29.

Nor Mohamed said the Government had paid RM18.7mil in subsidy to 49 NGOs involved in treatment and awareness programmes among kidney patients last year.