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100 orphans, needy children given free school uniforms

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Not all that glitters is gold. And not everyone in Langkawi is enjoying a fair share of its newly-created tourism wealth.

Poverty still exists, even though many landowners have become instant millionaires.

To help this needy group, the New Sunday Times today donated school uniforms, shoes and socks to some 100 orphans and children from poor families.

It was also a case of literally giving away what it got, as the gifts were bought from the remainder of the sponsorship proceeds for the NST-Langkawi Development Authority Photo Exhibition in July.

The exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of duty free port status for the island resort held at the LADA complex was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Today's New Straits Times charity project was held with support from City Bay View Hotel which sponsored the venue and high tea, Kelab Puteri Langkawi and the District Education Office.

On hand to give away the uniforms to some of the selected recipients were New Straits Times group editor Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, its assistant group editor Ahmad A. Talib, City Bay View general manager K.S. Lee and Kelab Puteri president Khorshida Begum.

Kadir said the present economic problems confronting the country were not as severe as those faced by other countries in the region.

Nevertheless, the lower income group was bound to be the worst hit during such troubled times, especially when prices of goods increased.

As such, the more fortunate especially the corporate sector must continue their support for worthy causes to alleviate the plight of the needy.

Kadir commended the unique caring spirit shown by Malaysians, especially the private sector, in supporting the needs of the less fortunate.

He said Malaysians were also fortunate as they were living in a land of plenty where no one starved though pockets of poverty still existed.

Even in many developed nations, he said, there were cases of people living in cardboard boxes and finding it difficult to eat a square meal.

To get out of the grips of poverty, he told the recipients to study hard.

"Education is the key to getting out of the clutches of poverty and leading a better life not only for yourselves but also your loved ones," he said.

Another recipient of the NST-Lada exhibition proceeds was former Sungei Raya estate worker P. Krishnasamy.

Krishnasamy, who was present, was earlier fitted with a prosthesis as he had lost his leg several months ago following an illness.

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