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Association celebrates 10th year

IT did not matter if the response was not up to expectations, the 50 residents of the Setia Kasih area in Bukit Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, who turned up for the recent jogalong still had a great time.

In fact, it was a great opportunity for the Setiakasih Residents Association (Perkasih) members to foster better relations.

The two-hour event kicked off at 7.30am at Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Bukit Damansara and ended at the same place.

The jogathon, which was held in conjunction with Perkasih's 10th anniversary, was aimed at fostering neighbourliness and unity, and to instill the importance of exercise for better health.

When Perkasih was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1987, its first jogathon attracted 200 participants, four times the number of the present one.

As the years went by, the annual event was no longer known as jogathon, but was modified to "jogalong" instead.

Guest-of-honour was Segambut Member of Parliament Dr Tan Kee Kwong.

Also present were Perkasih president Datuk Khalid Ismail, its past president Tan Sri Elyas Omar and deputy president Datuk Mohd Som Sulaiman.

Khalid said the association would draw participation from residents from the whole of the Damansara area if the committee agreed to it.

"We intend to increase the number of participants from other areas like Jalan Kasah and Jalan Bakti," he said.

He said the association hoped new residents at Setiakasih would join in its activities to promote neighbourliness next year.

Mohd Som, who was also the organising committee chairman, said the jogalong was divided into four categories - male, female, youth and children.

He said the participants were again divided according to age group in the respective categories.

"The first group for the male category is for those aged from 18 to 35, the second group from 36 to 45, the third from 46 to 54, and finally for those aged 55 and above.

"The first group in the female category is for the 18 to 45 year olds while the second group is for those from 46 and above."

Khalid said participants both male and female for the youth category aged between 13 and 17 while those from the children category aged four to 12 years.

The jogalong winners received hampers worth RM250, RM150, RM100 and RM80.

There was also a lucky draw with hampers as prizes.

The association also invited City Hall band to entertain its members and guests.

Another attraction after the jogalong was the baby show. The first ever held event was also one of the programmes to celebrate the association's anniversary.

Seventeen babies were entered for the contest.

Perkasih committee member Datin Maimunah Darus said the baby show was divided into three categories.

"The first category was for babies aged six months and under, the second from six to 12 months and the third for one to three years."

Maimunah said the first prize winners for all categories in the show

each received baby products worth RM250.

She said the judges for the show were the association's honorary auditor Datuk Nik Badli Shah's wife Datin Nik Zainab Nik Abu Bakar, Dr Kewaljit Singh from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Sri Montori kindergarten headmistress Janaki Seshadari.

The second prize winners received baby products worth RM150 and the third winners, baby products worth RM100.

Perkasih began with the idea conceived by its former president Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed with the main aim of providing healthy activities for children.

A pro-tem committee was formed to draw up the rules for the baby contest and to organise programmes and activities for Perkasih's celebration.

The registration of Perkasih was approved in October 1986 and it was launched in January the following year.

Sallehuddin, who was the founder president, served as Perkasih president for seven years from 1986, followed by Elyas (1994-95) and Khalid.

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