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Freemasons open their hearts

PETALING JAYA, Sat. - For the first time in its history, the Freemasons movement in Malaysia, long dubbed a secret society, invited the Press and the public to a dinner function in a new "policy of openness".

The dinner was to commemorate the installation of Institute of Marketing Malaysia chairman David Lai Kim Hean as the movement's new District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East, the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

At the function, Lai presented a cheque for RM50,000 to Malaysian AIDS Council chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir.

The function at the Sunway Resort Hotel was attended by more than 700 Freemasons and guests.

Lai said the movement had long been misunderstood by the public due to the lack of knowledge and information about the purpose of the 600-year-old movement.

"We hope to address this problem by adopting a more transparent attitude and embark on a policy of openness, while continuing to value our privacy which had long been the hallmark of our institution."

Lai added that the movement advocated good citizenship and moral principles among its members and it was ready to let the public know where it stood.

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