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Savings account for orphans

FOLLOWING the footsteps of other banks in promoting the savings campaign, Sime Bank's Balakong branch recently launched the Program Penyayang dan Perihatin Sime Bank at its premises at Taman Taming Jaya in Balakong, Selangor.

The programme was launched by Welfare Services Department's protective services director Lai Poh Guat, on behalf of the department's director-general Jaafar Abdul Wahid.

It is a nationwide programme launched in line with the savings campaign that was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last December and later in March by Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The programme is aimed at promoting a sense of civic pride among the bank's staff as a "Caring Corporate Citizen", as well as encouraging the young to start saving at an early age and grow up to be smart money managers.

About 1,000 orphans, aged 18 years and below from 24 orphanages throughout the country, have been identified and Sime Bank has allocated RM100,000 for this programme.

Nine orphanages are from Selangor and Federal Territory, five from Perak, three from Johor, two from Kelantan and one each from Malacca, Terengganu, Kedah, Sabah and Sarawak.

At the launching recently, the first donation was given away to 30 orphans from Rumah Faith in Kajang, who each received RM100 that was credited to their Sime Smart Saver Account.

The children were presented their savings accounts book by Sime Bank Bhd executive director Nik Din Nik Sulaiman.

The minimum rate to open an account is RM1.

The account holders will get a free personal accident insurance policy.

Sime Bank Balakong branch manager A. Malek Hassan said the programme was the bank's first community service project.

He said besides focusing on the orphans, the bank was identifying a few old folk's homes to benefit from its community services.

Malek added that the programme was also launched in conjunction with the changing of the bank's logo and name on Dec 16.

The bank was previously known as United Malayan Banking Corporation Berhad.

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