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322 take time off to celebrate Nurses Day

THEY are in one of the most demanding professions in the world, with hectic schedules but they spared sometime to celebrate, rather to lend meaning to what they stand for.

The 322 student nurses, nursing supervisors and heads of schools of nursing in the Klang Valley celebrated the International Nurses Day at the Kuala Lumpur Pantai College of Nursing recently.

Guest-of-honour was Pantai College of Nursing patron Mastisa Mohamed, who represented her husband, Mokhzani Mahathir, executive chairman for Pantai Holdings Bhd.

She joined the nurses in the customary cake-cutting ceremony.

Also present were Pantai Hospital Berhad chief executive officer Azman Ibrahim, group chief executive officer Dr Ridwan Bakar, patient and health care services group manager Vino Nallaya, chief nursing officer Joan Pereira and Pantai College of Nursing director Asmarani Siddek.

The theme for the year, Care of the Elderly Person, was highlighted as being in line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) proclamation to care for senior citizens.

Pantai Education Berhad, marking its journey into the new millennium, has taken a big step introducing male nurses in its training programme, making it the first and largest for nurses' training in Kuala Lumpur.

In a short welcome address, male student nurse Kenny Ronald Ngalin said that men, too, can make good nurses and that he and his fellow students would prove their abilities and be the gems among the roses.

"Nurses have greatly contributed to promoting and maintaining of good health, that today people continue to enjoy a longer lifespan.

"In recognition to this, Nurses Day is celebrated to pay tribute to these special people who have touched the hearts of the sick and the needy.

"We are also pleased to have a vibrant group of tutors and clinical instructors who guide us to be dedicated to the core values of our college," Ngalin said.

Among the many activities organised by the Pantai College of Nursing including holding talks on hypertension and heart diseases, blood screening and eye checks.

In conjunction with the celebration, a forum entitled "Care For The Elderly" was held at college premises.

Among the topics discussed were Psychological Aspects in Elderly Care by UKM clinical psychology professor Datuk Dr Mat Saat Baki, Role of National Council of Senior Citizens of Malaysia (Nacscom) in facing the challenges and issues of ageing by Nacscom president Lum Kin Tuck, Care for the Elderly in a Residential Home for the Aged by Sisters of the Poor representative Marie Jeanne and Role of Nurses in the Care of the Elderly in Hospital by Cheras Geriatric Centre senior nurse Satwant Kaur Dhillion.

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