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Over RM1m raised for poor in Kelantan

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - More than RM1 million in cash was raised for the poor in Kelantan at a dinner and theatre show attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

A company also pledged RM90,000 worth of spectacles for the poor.

Malaysian generosity again became abundantly clear when companies and individuals responded to a fund-raiser organised by Yayasan Kemiskinan Kelantan (a foundation to help the poor in Kelantan), Malaysia Youth Council and Kota Baru District Cultural Council.

The organisers, assisted by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, only announced contributions of RM50,000 and above.

These came from Nishikigoi (M) Bhd (RM400,000), Al-Ain Marketing Services Sdn Bhd (RM360,000), Konsortium Kontraktor PLB (RM300,000), Telormas Sdn Bhd (RM200,000), Esteem Heights Sdn Bhd (50,000) and (Shorefield Sdn Bhd RM50,000).

The England Optical Sdn Bhd donated RM100,000 to the Malaysian Youth Council, including RM90,000 worth of spectacles for the poor. The announced cash contributions came up to RM1.37 million.

The event was a charity premiere of the legend of Puteri Saadong performed by a troupe from the Kota Baru District Cultural Council held at the Mandarin Oriental here.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech, praised Malaysians' generosity, saying that they had given generously each time there was a donation drive. He said this was also obvious in donations for the Kosovo fund.

He later presented a mock cheque for RM10,000 to the New Straits Times Sdn Bhd group editor Ahmad A. Talib for the Tabung Barisan Bertindak Kosovo.

The money was raised by the Community Development Department (Kemas) of Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said with the Malays in the midst of a race to do better, there was no time for things which would not do anybody any good. He mentioned being playful and loafing as examples.

Dr Mahathir said poverty should not exist in Malaysia given the rich resources and fertile land.

The Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa were also present.

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