

25 MAY 2001

Blind-Charity

LACK OF SUPPORT FOR MAB'S CHARITY DRIVE

By: Yai Ban King

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) is worried that its charity draw may not achieve the RM10 million target as voucher sale is far behind target with the draw day only less than a month away.

MAB executive director George Thomas said today the association had only managed to collect RM2 million from voucher sales which started on April 12, last year.

"The response has not been very encouraging. So far we have only managed to distribute over 242,700 vouchers. In order to raise the much needed funds we need the support of big organisations," he told Bernama, here.

George said the charity drive was aimed at raising the much needed funds for rebuilding MAB's hostel for blind trainees in Kuala Lumpur and to redevelop its rural training centre in Temerloh, Pahang.

In addition, he said, the funds would be used to extend and intensify the Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital community services on "early intervention and prevention" of blindness nationwide.

George said the charity draw would be held on June 16 at the MAB's headquarters in Brickfields.

The draw offers over 1,300 prizes to be won which include a holiday apartment in Bukit Tinggi Resort, a Proton Wira and a Jaguh motorbike.

A RM10 voucher entitles the holder a free eye check-up at the Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital.

The vouchers are available at Bonia Boutiques, Chakri Palace Restaurant, England Optical shops, Merrybrown outlets and the premises of Osim, Seng Hup, Pathlab, Poh Kong, Time Galerie and Wet World.

Earlier today Deputy Minister of Information Datuk Khalid Yunus paid a visit to the association and read out a 10-minute story titled "Balasan Ke Atas Pemuda Buta" to blind children.

His story was about a blind youth who regained his vision for his good deeds.

The story-telling is part of the "Reading for the Blind Programme" organised by Putri Umno and Umno Civil Action Bureau.

Prior to Khalid, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz had also told such short stories to inspire and entertain blind children.

George said the association was recording the voices of the VIP story tellers to play back and "cheer and fire up" the visually impaired.

-- BERNAMA

YBK ZS AAM