

10/10/2001

MAB to mark 50th anniversary with several activities

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Malaysian Association for the Blind has lined up a number of programmes and activities to mark its 50th anniversary celebration on Nov 21.

MAB vice-president Datuk L. Krishnan said they would be featuring films and publishing write-ups of famous blind people like Helen Keller and Louis Braille to promote awareness of blindness.

"We will also be producing some features on outstanding blind persons, volunteers and staff in Malaysia," he added.

There will also be a charity banquet on Nov 9 at the Renaissance Hotel to be attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

At the dinner, several outstanding blind persons, volunteers and staff will be recognised. MAB will also launch its Golden Jubilee Education Fund to provide financial assistance to encourage more blind persons to improve themselves through higher education or through other self-improvement courses.

He said through the work of MAB, hundreds of blind people in Malaysia have benefited from its various programmes.

He added the landmarks of MAB's work include the Gurney Training Centre which provides rehabilitation and vocational training to the blind and Taman Harapan, in Pahang, which provides opportunities for the blind in agriculture training and animal husbandry.

There is also the job placement service, established in 1956, which has helped to find jobs for many blind persons, and the library and braille resource centre, set up in 1959, which has about 1,300 users.

He said they have opened three more centres. They are the Assistance to Blind Children and pre-school programme which presently caters for some 20 children, the social activity centre for the adult blind which organises social and recreational activities and the elderly blind centre in Kuala Lumpur/Selangor and Perak.

"In order to help the blind to cope more effectively in our K-economy, there are plans to upgrade both our Gurney Training Centre and Taman Harapan," he added.

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