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Blood donors galore for 'One Nation We Care' event

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The mood was light as medical officers interacted with patients who went to Menara ING to have needles stuck into them and blood drawn out.

Menara ING was one of the three centres here where blood donors gave the gift of life, a drive held in conjunction with the "One Nation We Care" event tomorrow.

The other two venues were at Menara Prudential and Menara Great Eastern, and at all three centres, more than 235 people came forward to donate at the drive which was organised by the National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance and Financial Advisers (Namlifa).

At Menara ING, Lim Ai Leng, 29, said it was her fourteenth time donating, something she had made it a point to do ever since her university days.

"The first time I did this I was scared, but now, it's nothing," the marketing officer said, though she looked a little pale.

The atmosphere at Menara Great Eastern, however, was a little more sombre. In the quiet environment, a woman's shriek was suddenly heard as a medical officer injected a needle into her.

"I am very, very scared of needles and very, very scared of pain - especially pain inflicted by needles!" said Oon Poh Choo, 47, an insurance agent.

However, this 13-time donor said donating blood was healthy and she tried to make it point to do it at least twice a year.

UPM student Mohd Amin Zainal Abidin, 21, said he wanted to know what donating blood would feel like, while carrying out a good cause.

"Maybe I will need someone to do the same for me one day," he said.

At Menara Prudential, 24-year-old Vitcent Moses said he wanted to be part of the noble cause as it was his chance to do something for society.

Although it was the finance clerk's first time, he was not nervous, he said.

The "One Nation We Care" event takes place at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium tomorrow between 6pm and 10pm.

It is a celebration to honour Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for leading Malaysia to where she stands today.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at the event, which is sponsored by Namlifa, General Insurance Association of Malaysia and Life Insurance Association of Malaysia.

There will also be a blood donation drive at the stadium between 10am and 6pm.

Programmes such as tattoo marches, a parade of Chinese drummers and performances by local artistes are on the agenda.

A raffle draw will also be held, where the three grand prizes are a Proton Perdana V6, a Nissan Sentra 1.5 and a Casa Ria Condominium together worth more than RM350,000. Other prizes include electrical appliances.

To enter, all one has to do is purchase a ticket priced at RM2 on the night of the event.