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Insurance firm, association raise RM450,000 for needy

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Bhd and its Agency Force Association tonight held its "Allianz Cares for Malaysian Charity Dinner" to raise funds for the less fortunate.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, patron of the event, were present.

A total of RM450,000 was raised through the dinner and two other activities held earlier in the year.

One was a two-month sales drive where Allianz Life agency members contributed part of their commissions to charity. The amount was further topped up by Allianz Life. The second effort was a seven-kilometre charity jog held in Ipoh, Johor and Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Siti Hasmah, who is president of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti), said the development of a country did not solely depend on the economy but also on social stability.

"A balance between economic stability and the standard of living has to be achieved. One of the ways is for the well-to-do to help the not-so-lucky ones," she said.

She said although there were welfare bodies, their efforts needed everyone's support.

"We cannot depend solely on them to organised charity events, nor on the Government to provide the funds, as resources are limited," she said.

Dr Siti Hasmah added that corporations needed to work together with welfare bodies and other organisations to symbolise the unity of Malaysians, while bridging the gap in the standard of living.

At the event, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah, together with the 2,000 people who attended the dinner, lit candles symbolising Malaysian unity and the effort to help the unfortunate.

Dr Siti Hasmah received a RM250,000 contribution from the organisers on behalf of Bakti.

Other recipients included the Handicapped and Disabled Children's Association of Klang, Selayang Cheshire Welfare Home, Kajang Special Children's Centre, Handicapped and Mentally Disabled Children's Association Johor Baru and Ipoh Love and Care Society, which received RM30,000 each. Yayasan Sin Chew and Yayasan Nanyang Press each received RM25,000.