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Siamese community celebrates New Year

KANGAR, Wed. - Prayers, cultural performances and presentation of financial aid were the highlights at two New Year gatherings organised by the Siamese community here and in Changlun, Kedah.

In commending the community for their contribution towards national development, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said Perlis was the

first State to appoint a Siamese municipal councillor.

He said this at Wat Machimaprasit temple in Jejawi, near here, today.

Malaysian Siamese Association general secretary Senator Swi Chun Eam thanked the Government for its support towards the community.

Shahidan later presented RM50 each to 15 outstanding students, a box of groceries each to about 100 senior citizens and RM5 each to about 300 children.

He also handed out bags, shoes and school uniforms to 59 students.

The contribution was from former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

Also present at the event, jointly organised by Malaysian Siamese Association's five branches in Kangar and Arau, were the temple's chief monk, Uthai Thayo, and community leaders.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 Malaysian Siamese held a special prayer session for the New Year at Dewan Kampung Bukit Kecil, Batu 8 in Changlun, Kedah last night.

Organising committee chairman Din Nong said the residents from nearby villages supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to

discard all forms of extremism.

He said it was important to strengthen unity among Malaysians.