



Lotus's Malaysia central region store director Thinesh Subramaniam (second from right) and Lotus's Kota Baru store general manager Koh Siuew Luan (right) handing over donated items to Ustaz Ahmad Syahir Haris (left). (Right) Volunteers preparing buka puasa meals.



Healthy meals for breaking of fast

Hypermarket chain teams up with NGO to carry out Ramadan initiatives in four states

THIS month, Lotus's Stores (M) Sdn Bhd is providing healthy meals to low-income communities in parts of Peninsular Malaysia.

The hypermarket chain collaborated with Food Aid Foundation to hold a Ramadan cookout, preparing *buka puasa* meals for hundreds of needy individuals and families in Kota Baru, Kelantan.

A total of 2,000 meals will also be prepared and distributed at three Lotus's stores – Sungai Dua in Penang, Ara Damansara in Selangor and Plentong in Johor – throughout the fasting month.

The meals, prepared by both

Lotus's Malaysia and Food Aid Foundation volunteers, will be distributed to the homes of the underprivileged as well as orphanages under the ongoing Lotus's Food Surplus programme.

Lotus's Malaysia volunteers in Kelantan also contributed new carpets, curtains and prayer mats to Masjid Wakaf Tok Kassim in Tebing Tinggi.

A *buka puasa* session was organised at the mosque as well.

"Being able to get together again during this holy month to make a difference through impactful initiatives for those in need is what we

love doing," said Lotus's Malaysia communications and CSR head Hanim Hamdan.

"We are very grateful that we can do more this year compared to the past two years.

"Collaborating with a trusted non-governmental organisation like Food Aid Foundation not only gives us greater access to vulnerable groups, but also allows us to learn from its expertise in the preparation of balanced and nutritious meals.

"It is also an opportunity for our colleagues across the business to be more involved in volunteerism in

line with our #KitakanJiran spirit as Lotus's employees," Hanim added.

In anticipation of more social and family gatherings this year, Lotus's has brought back pre-pandemic prices for selected fresh produce and groceries until May 25.

Among the items with low prices are whole fresh chicken, prawns and lemons.

Meanwhile, prices for the hypermarket's festive clothing collection start from RM29.90.

New in its festive range are Lotus's serving ware, prayer mats, patterned cushion covers, placemats, table runners, wooden and

glass collections, store brand electrical products and USB kitchen appliances.

Currently, all 64 Lotus's stores have food charity bins for customers to make donations during Ramadan.

The essential items will benefit orphanages, old folks homes, single mothers and underserved schools.

Lotus's recently partnered with a local radio station to give away various store brand products at 23 locations in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Johor, Perak, Penang and Kedah.

AGROBANK AND MSTAR SHARE THE BLESSINGS OF RAMADAN

UNDERGRADUATE students from Universiti Putra Malaysia's Agriculture Faculty were treated to a meal of tomato rice and *ayam masak merah* together with a pudding for dessert, to break fast at iftar.

For the second time Agrobank, the main sponsor of the Kongsi Nikmat Bersama Agrobank, stepped up to provide the boxed meal, working together with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)'s Students Affairs Department and Star Media Group's (SMG) mStar. The students were also given goodie bags.

Agrobank president and chief executive officer Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin said the meals for iftar were given to 200 B40 Muslim students of UPM's Agriculture Faculty.

"Being an annual event, the Kongsi Nikmat Bersama Agrobank programme gives the financial institution an opportunity to provide for the undergraduates," he said.

Ahmad Badli described the coming together of both organisations as the right fit as UPM was formerly an agricultural university while Agrobank, established in 1969, was actively involved in charting the growth and development of Malaysia's agricultural industry.

"Agrobank and UPM have a similar history of establishment. Agrobank started as Bank Pertanian Malaysia and UPM was initially known as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia, and subsequently grew into an institution that plays a major role in contributing to the progress and development of the country with its own mandate and expertise.



The Kongsi Nikmat Bersama Agrobank programme gives the financial institution an opportunity to provide for the undergraduates, says Ahmad Badli.

"I am very grateful to mStar for providing an opportunity for us to be together in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. This time it involved university students.

"This Kongsi Nikmat programme is held specially during the month of Ramadan with the aim of further expanding the reach of Agrobank's community services in providing contributions and assistance, especially to our target group – the unserved and underserved community.

"At Agrobank, we are committed to play our role as a responsible corporate citizen and deliver our social obligation, to be actively involved in various social and community programmes, which are not only specific to the agro community but also cover all aspects of social development including education, the local



Ahmad Badli (centre) at the Kongsi Nikmat Bersama Agrobank event that provided food for B40 Muslim students at UPM to break fast.

community and so on.

"I am also excited for the students of the Faculty of Agriculture this time, because along with our mandate we hope they can study well and play an important role in food security in Malaysia one day," he said.

Agrobank offers syariah-compliant products and solutions across various customer segments, including corporate, commercial, consumer, trade finance and micro financing.

Agricultural Faculty Students

Society president Nor Harriz, 25, said he was thankful for Agrobank's effort to reach out and provide for the students.

"I believe this charity event will also create a stronger bond between Agrobank and UPM's students," he said.

Student Irfan Habib, 26, appreciated the meal given and hoped that Agrobank and mStar will continue the annual event.

Second year student, Imran Junid, 21, said all the students were grateful for the generous

donation during the fasting month as it would help save on food expenses.

"Every little help for students on a tight budget is taken as a blessing," he added, thanking Agrobank and mStar for the initiative.

Present at the event were UPM deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof Dr Arifin Abdu, mStar chief news editor Nizam Abdullah and SMG client brand marketing general manager Juniza Yasmin Hussein.