



MEDIA STATEMENT

Maybank Islamic WASH Programme brings clean water to rural villages

KUALA KRAI, KELANTAN: Committed to do its part to improve the health situation of the rural poor through clean, fresh and safe water, Maybank Islamic Berhad had on September 22 2018 held a handover ceremony of its WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programme here.

Works on the RM1.1 million project commenced just over a year ago and today, 171 households or 855 individuals in 3 villages here are benefitting from fresh water supply derived from 3 water tanks.

Non-governmental organisation (NGO) Mercy Malaysia was chosen as the Bank's implementing partner in this programme which initially involved the drilling of deep wells, the installation of water tanks and pumps, the laying of water supply pipeline, construction of water faucets, repairing the gravity feed system and installation of rainwater harvesting system.

Thereafter, ventilated pit latrines, refuse pits and communal latrines were constructed, followed by training to the villagers on water, sanitation, and hygiene while the WASH committee were trained on water system management.

Maybank Islamic Berhad CEO Dato' Mohamed Rafique Merican in his speech said this programme is aimed at improving the health situation of the rural poor and enhance equitable development through provision of integrated WASH services in the identified rural areas of Kelantan.

"Our main goal is to assist to improve the health and socioeconomic well-being of communities here by reducing the incidence of water and sanitation related diseases through sustainable safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices," he said.

Dato' Mohamed Rafique added that while the direct effects of WASH is directly linked to health and nutrition, the spill over effects would also cover other areas such as the economy and the environment.

"A households' financial and livelihood security rests on the health of its members. When the breadwinner is ill due to unsafe drinking water, his or her productivity is lowered and incurring health costs."

"Improved sanitation reduces flows of human waste into waterways, thus helping to protect the community and environmental," he said.

Dato' Mohamed Rafique said MERCY Malaysia was appointed as the Bank's partner due to its experience and expertise within this area.

MERCY, he noted has a pool of volunteers specialising in technical capacities for construction such as architects, engineers, quantity surveyors and project managers who are able to consult and manage reconstruction and rehabilitation projects effectively.

The handover ceremony was also attended by Maybank Islamic Chairman Encik Zainal Abidin Jamal, Kuala Krai District Officer Zulkifle Abdul Rahman, Maybank Regional Director for Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu Abdul Razak Kamardin and senior management of Maybank Islamic.

It was held in conjunction with Maybank Group Global CR Day, an annual event where Maybankers around the world showcase their CR initiatives for communities where the Group has a presence. It is a day where Maybankers demonstrated the Group's humanising mission to be at the heart of the community.

This year, the Global CR Day celebration is themed "Impact, Engage, Empower" - reinforcing the Group's commitment in creating and empowering solutions for the communities to improve their lives.

Here, Maybank Islamic volunteers are involved in three activities, namely distribution of food packs in 2 villages, helping out with some of the renovation works of a surau and painting of a water tank.

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Maybank Islamic Berhad

Maybank Islamic is ASEAN's leading Islamic bank and the largest Islamic commercial bank in Malaysia with a market share of 34% of Islamic financing as well as 30% of deposit and investment account as at December 31 2017. For the 2017 Financial Year, Maybank Islamic's total assets stood at RM202.5 billion.

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