

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Royal audience for story-telling competition by Orang Asli children

07 September 2019, Kuala Lumpur – Children of Kg Orang Asli Sg Gabong participated in a story-telling competition outside the comforts of their village located 80km from Kuala Lumpur and accessible only by a single path wooden bridge.

A total of 11 children aged between 8 and 16 participated in the competition organised by Great Eastern Takaful Berhad (GETB), which 'adopted' this Orang Asli community of 100 families since 2018 as part of the takaful provider's sustainable Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

At hand to lend support and cheer the children on was Duli Yang Maha Mulia Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, who graced the event at Pusat Kreatif Kanak-Kanak Tuanku Bainun in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

14 year old Haslinna a/p Zaili from SMK Khai Mun was the winner for the secondary school category for her rendition of "*Semut dan Merpati*" while Nur Syazwanis Safia binti Abdul Rahman, 8 from SK Sulaiman was declared the winner in the primary school category for narrating her story, "*Bangau menipu Ikan*".

GETB chief executive officer Shahrul Azlan Shahrman said: "We believe our role is to act as the link between the urban classes and under-served communities. Indirectly, we play a small but crucial part in enhancing their prospects, so that they are elevated to a level where they are able to take small but strategic steps towards participating in and eventually contributing to the nation's progress through their own unique talent and abilities. They know best how to meet the challenges they face. Our role then, is to be the enabler by providing the resources, know-how and encouragement. For the good of all mankind."

The initial project in the village - which did not have electricity and water - was to install solar light panels and water purification systems in August 2018. This was also in keeping with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6) as well as Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7).

Following this successful initiative, various projects to uplift their lives were carried out, including outfitting the *balai raya* into a full-fledged library with books for school-going children.

GETB volunteers also painted the *balai raya* and conducted an oral hygiene workshop for the village children.

Having allocated RM200,000 in funding and our volunteers contributing 1,500 man hours to carry through our CSR initiatives in this village till now, GETB today conducted a workshop to teach the women folk to sew embroidery onto jute bags, a continuation from efforts in July 2019 to alleviate their financial hardship.

The next project planned for the last quarter of 2019 is community farming, which will involve bringing a few families together to invest in farming activities that are economically viable.

About Great Eastern Takaful Berhad

Great Eastern Takaful Berhad is a joint venture company between I Great Capital Holdings Sdn Bhd (i-Great), a subsidiary of Great Eastern Holdings Limited and Koperasi AngkatanTentera (M) Berhad. Since its inception in 2010, the company has achieved great success - it was named the 'Best New Islamic Institution' in 2011; 'Best New Takaful Institution' in 2012; and 'Best Takaful Operator (Asia)' in 2013 at the Islamic Business & Finance Awards in Dubai. In 2018, Great Eastern Takaful Berhad won an award for the 'Fastest Growing Takaful Company in Malaysia' by International Finance, a premium and business analysis publication in United Kingdom and Takaful Solutions Provider of the Year - South East Asia Award by Wealth & Finance International from United Kingdom.

The Government of Malaysia has also appointed Great Eastern Takaful Berhad as the administrator of mySalam, the national health protection scheme, under the supervision of Bank Negara Malaysia.

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