

## News

# Fundraiser for the poor in Sandakan

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KUALA LUMPUR

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GENEROUS Malaysians can always be relied on to give back to society.

Non-profit organisation Give Malaysia is doing its bit to assist the less fortunate by holding the "Fashion With Passion Charity Gala Dinner 2017" tomorrow at the Elopura Grand Ballroom, Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan in Sabah.

Give Malaysia is headed by Miss Malaysia 1984 Betty Anne Brohier and has received strong support from local designers.

"It all started when Bill Keith and I visited a hospital in Kota Kinabalu.

"We saw so many poor families and sick children who couldn't afford to pay their medical bills.

"Some were so poor and deprived that they didn't even have clean water to drink.

"We were so moved by what we saw that we decided to do something under Give Malaysia," Brohier said at a press conference in M Caffe, Bukit Damansara, Kuala Lumpur.

The event was attended by fashion designers who included Keith, Calvin Thoo, Bon Zainal, Leslie Variyan, Suhara Omar Leitenbauer as well as celebrities like Mrs Universe 2013 Carol Lee, model Karmen Khor, Carrie Lee (Miss Chinese Cosmos, World winner 2004).

"We want to help underprivileged families facing the toughest of challenges at the Duchess of Kent Hospital, Sandakan, as well as the orang utan, the Malayan sun bear and Borneo pygmy elephant at the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Sanctuary, Sandakan.

"This is our way of giving back and touching lives. Thanks to our patron Puan Sri Shariffa Sabrina Syed Akl, the committee and our designer friends for their commitment in making this event a reality," said Brohier, who is Give Malaysia's president.

All the 36 tables for the charity dinner are sold out and they are increasing the number of RM5 raffle tickets for the lucky draw.

One of the highlights will be a jewellery auction by Elegance Club as well as a designer dress by Bill Keith and blazer by Bon Zainal.

One of the event partners is Ireka Corporation Bhd group managing director Datuk Lai Voon Hon, who said taking part in the event was his way of giving back.

"It's a great gift to be given the opportunity to give back, especially

# Giving generously to help Sandakan's less fortunate

Funds to be raised at NGO's fashion charity dinner also for wildlife rehabilitation



Brohier has received strong support from local designers.

when it involves children," said Lai, who provided the accommodation for the event.

Brohier also thanked Four Points by Sheraton Sandakan general manager Peter Padman for supporting the event.

Popular menswear designer Bon Zainal said he was all for charity. "The fashion designers in Malaysia have always done our bit to show we care.

"It's also a way of sharing the fruits of our success with the less fortunate.

"We can always give back in many ways, through money or time. So let's make it fun and meaningful," said Bon, who is also Bumiputera Designers Association vice-president.

Brohier is hopeful the charity gala dinner will be a huge success.

"Whenever we do an event, it creates awareness.

"Hopefully, this event will ignite change and have a positive impact on society," she said, adding that they hope to raise RM100,000.

Give Malaysia treasurer Su Yen Eryna assured donors that they would be very transparent in disbursing any funds raised.

The main sponsor for the gala dinner is Sawit Kinabalu Sdn Bhd.



(From left) Singer Noryn Aziz, Shariffa Sabrina, Carrie, Khor, model Kiri wearing a Bon Zainal blazer, Su Yen, Carol Lee and singer Poova.



(From left) Kiri, Carol, Lai, Carrie, Khor and Su Yen at the event.