

MEDIA RELEASE

THE DAY THE SIGHTED WENT “BLIND” TO RAISE RM47,350 FOR THE VISUALLY-IMPAIRED

Kuala Lumpur, 3 July 2017 – More than 300 people from all walks of life recently went “blind” on the streets of Brickfields to raise a total of RM47,350 for the visually-impaired.



The participants setting out on their walk through the streets of Brickfields where MAB is situated

The annual *Charity Walk For Sight* organised by Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur, Seri Petaling in partnership with OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (OCBC Bank) gave the sighted an opportunity to experience what it is like to be visually-impaired by walking blind-folded with the aid of a sighted helper over a one-kilometre distance in aid of the Malaysian Association of the Blind (MAB).

According to MAB Chairman, Library, Sales Services, Repair Services and Braille Publication, Mr Thavasothy S. Mailvaganam Pillai the Association depends very much on contributions from the public, and the charity walk this year was aimed at upgrading their library and purchasing a new recording unit and Thermoform machine.

“We are grateful to OCBC Bank for contributing the lion’s share of RM36,800 as corporate sponsor and to the Lions Club for having done a splendid job organising the entire exercise,” he said.



Mr Edmond Lee Boon Teck, Senior Manager of OCBC Kajang branch; Mr Wong Swei Tah, Senior Manager of OCBC Cheras branch; Mr Thavasothy, Chairman, Library, Sales Services, Repair Services and Braille Publication of MAB; Ms Helen Mah Lai Fong, Senior Manager of OCBC Puchong branch; Mr Victor Solomon, President, Lions Club Kuala Lumpur, Seri Petaling

The charity walk started at 7.30am at Kompleks MAB in Brickfields, with many arriving as early as 6.00am, eager to check out what the experience would hold for them. A carnival atmosphere prevailed with stalls set up to provide food and health care products for the participants. *Laughing Yoga*, a 20-minute warm-up exercise with a touch of humour thrown in, was the first item on the itinerary, designed to get everyone into the groove. It was followed by a more serious coaching session on how to guide the visually-impaired when walking with them.

By the time the event ended later that morning, the sighted participants were unanimous about how they now had a much better idea about what it feels like to be visually-impaired and, more importantly, how to meaningfully assist those with such needs. A participant put it succinctly: “I’ve now learned that when helping a visually-impaired person across the street, for example, I must think the way he or she thinks and not the way a visually-unimpaired person would.”

According to Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur Seri Petaling President Mr Victor Solomon, the partnership with OCBC Bank follows from the highly successful partnership the two entities enjoyed last year when they linked arms to help the Ti-Ratana Foundation.

“We are grateful for the partnership with OCBC Bank, in particular the Cheras, Kajang and Puchong branches, for this partnership once again to collaborate in the name of charity. We believe our combined efforts will go a long way in assisting the MAB. On top of their financial contribution, OCBC Bank staff were also on hand to volunteer during the walk and this made it all the more meaningful,” he said.

Present at the event was OCBC Bank Cheras Branch Senior Manager, Mr Wong Swei Tah, who said the Bank has been, in recent times, looking to become even more entrenched in the localities in which it operates.

“Our involvement in this charity walk is another way in which we collaborate and engage with communities throughout the country. OCBC Bank has been very involved in supporting the MAB for some time now. At a corporate level, among others, we donated 10 tandem bicycles to them last year, which were used for an expedition to Taman Negara in Pahang,” he said.

About OCBC Bank

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OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of commercial banking, specialist financial and wealth management services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has more than 610 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions. These include the 340 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and over 100 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macau under OCBC Wing Hang.

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OCBC Bank offers Islamic banking products and services in Malaysia through its wholly-owned subsidiary, OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad.

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