

# Nine classrooms receive ICT facilities

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SK Bukit Lanjan (Asli) has received ICT facilities worth RM47,000 for its nine classrooms from Dialog Group Bhd (Dialog) through the MyKasih Foundation to meet the needs of a 21st century learning environment.

MyKasih Foundation trustee Siti Khairon Shariff says the “21st Century Classroom Transformation Project”, done in partnership with Dialog, enhances the learning environment in the school by upgrading its classrooms with ICT facilities including computers, projectors and printers.

“The programme not only allows the pupils to be proficient in technology, teaching methods of the educators would also be transformed to guide them towards teamwork, reasoning and developing their thinking skills,” she says.

SK Bukit Lanjan (Asli) headmaster Nazri Mash Turki says that the upgraded, ICT-equipped classrooms is in line with the seventh shift under the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2012-2025, which is to leverage on ICT to improve the quality of learning within the classroom.

He thanked the team from the MyKasih Foundation for coming forward and helping to enrich the orang asli pupils’ learning experience.

Since 2014, Dialog has contributed almost RM400,000 to the school in the form of cashless bursaries and other forms of support through MyKasih’s “Love My School” programme. The oil and gas company now supports all 174 pupils in the school and have also adopted SK Penderas, Temerloh under the programme.

“This is the first orang asli school, which Dialog began supporting through the MyKasih ‘Love My School’ programme.

“Each primary school pupil will receive a monthly spending allowance of RM60, which they can draw upon using the MyKasih

smartcard to pay for food and drinks at the school canteen, as well as school uniforms, books and stationery at the school bookshop.”

The smartcard technology was developed by ePetrol Services, a subsidiary of Dialog.

“The technology has helped ensure that all donors’ contributions to MyKasih Foundation reach targeted recipients in full, and in a secure, efficient and transparent manner,” she adds.

“We don’t want to do cash handouts and whatever is given by the donors is given in full to the recipients,” says MyKasih Foundation managing director Jeffrey Perera.

He says that the foundation does not use any of the donated funds for administration purposes, adding that these expenses are borne by Dialog executive chairman and MyKasih Foundation chairman and co-founder Tan Sri Dr Ngau Boon Keat.

MyKasih’s efforts to help the Temuan community in Damansara Perdana did not start with the “Love My School” programme.

In 2009, the foundation had been helping the community through their ‘Love My Neighbourhood’ food aid programme, he adds.

Siti Khairon says that based on the feedback they received from the teachers, the children are healthier, more confident and happier. The attendance has also been improving.

“In fact, attendance has increased from 78.1% in 2014 to 84.37% last year,” she says, adding that the teachers have confided that the biggest challenge they used to face was convincing both parents and pupils to show up for classes.

Though it cannot be directly attributed to MyKasih’s influence on the 38-year-old school, but for the first time last year, a pupil score straight As in the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) exams, Perera adds.

“It is so encouraging that with the right opportunities, these children can be successful.”

Perera also encourages other corporations or private donors to approach MyKasih Foundation to help provide a better life to marginalised communities.

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