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Aid for HIV children

RELIEF: Standard Chartered pledges RM660,000 in support

KUALA LUMPUR
streets@nstp.com.my

As part of its global commitment towards eradicating the spread and growth of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd has once again stepped up to help children infected and affected by HIV with a financial relief of RM660,000.

Standard Chartered pledged the aid to the Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund (SCPAF) to support children orphaned or made-vulnerable by AIDS across Malaysia.

The programme was set up in collaboration with Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) and the Bank's foundation, Standard Chartered Trust Fund (SCTF).

At the signing, Standard Chartered managing director and chief executive officer Osman Morad, who is also SCTF chairman said, HIV and AIDS remains one of the greatest challenges to global health.

"I'm pleased that we are working with MAF on yet another endeavour.

"Their dedication in responding to the epidemic mirrors our efforts in educating the community on and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS."

MAF chairman Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman said children are among the most vulnerable group as the deadly disease has put them at risk physically, emotionally and economically.

She said as of December 2010, a total of 2,204 children from the age of 2 to 19 were infected with HIV, of which 486 were AIDS cases.

"This is where corporate citizens like Standard Chartered play a piv-

otal role in making a huge difference in the lives of these children through the SCPAF which will make a tremendous difference in relieving the families' burden."

Under the new agreement, 150 children below 13 years old from poor families will each receive RM200 a month to help with their medical treatment, education as well as basic expenses such as food and clothing.

MAF will help identify and evaluate the eligibility of the children and households involved.

Signing for Standard Chartered were Osman, Datuk Lim Say Chong, a member of SCTF Board of Trustees while MAF was represented by Dr Adeeba and honorary secretary Datin Mina Cheah.

The signing was witnessed by MAF's Red Ribbon celebrity supporters and local songstress Dayang Nurfaizah who is an active champion of the HIV/AIDS cause.



(From left) Datin Mina Cheah, Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Dayang Nurfaizah, Osman Morad and Datuk Lim Say Chong at the signing ceremony.