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Girl Guides help spruce up CASP

SOME 100 Girl Guides gave the new premises of the Community AIDS Service Penang (CASP) on Jalan Kulim in Bukit Mertajam a cleanup in conjunction with the launching of the centenary celebration of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout movements.

The guides from the Bukit Mertajam High School and the Penang Teachers Training Institute also helped to start a vegetable plot which will help supplement CASP's daily needs apart from providing a healthy recreational activity for its residents.

Girl Guide Association of Malaysia (GGAM) chief commissioner Datin Seri Zalillah Mohd Taib launched the celebration after the community service recently by unfurling the centenary patchwork at the same premises. The patchwork was a collective effort by the various GGAM branches.

"This centenary celebration is not just to honour and mark 100 years of the biggest women's movement in the world but is also to accelerate and further improve our efforts to build a better world," Zalillah said in her speech.

She proposed that every Girl Guide plant at least one tree in their respective places throughout the year in line with the 2010 'Plant' theme of the three-year celebration.

Zalillah, who is also the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Centenary Ambassador for Malaysia, said the

theme for 2011 and 2012 was 'Grow' and 'Share' respectively.

She said there were about 250 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in the world who have been changing lives and building a better world through community work, peer education and service to others.

GGAM commissioner Joyce Ong Choon Kim said the themes of the celebration were to indicate continuity.

Ong, who is the celebration organising committee chairman, explained that the seeds of change were planted through Global Action theme projects in the first year.

In the second year, the growth of the projects will be celebrated while the third year's theme indicates that they share their achievements with their communities, other non governmental organisations, the media and fellow members.

Also present at the launching were WAGGGS Young Centenary Ambassador Balakavitha Balaravi, CASP chairman P.R. Selvarajan and its administrator Elizabeth Thomas.

Thomas said CASP was scheduled to move to its new premises in Bukit Mertajam from its present location on 46 Thomas Road on the island on June 1.

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Collective artwork: Zalillah (centre) holding the centenary patchwork after unfurling it in Bukit Mertajam recently in conjunction with the association's centenary celebration. With her are Ong (second right) and Balakavitha (second left).