



# THE WATERFRONT

Club website: [www.kuchingcentralrotary.org](http://www.kuchingcentralrotary.org)

THIS IS THE WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE *ROTARY CLUB OF KUCHING CENTRAL*, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA; ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3310; CHARTERED ON 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 1986.

WEEKLY LUNCHEON MEETING AT 1PM EVERY SATURDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) AT THE RIVERSIDE MAJESTIC HOTEL, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

## JOINING FORCES WITH 4 ROTARY CLUBS IN JOHOR TO LEND A HAND TO FLOOD VICTIMS AT ASAJAYA, SAMARAHAN & KAMPUNG PODAM, BAU, SARAWAK



The recent flood in Kuching, Bau and Kota Samarahan has also completely destroyed six houses at Kampung Tambirat, Asajaya, Samarahan. Several Rotary clubs in Johor led by the Rotary Club of Kuching Central are responding by providing financial aids and food supplies to the six families.

### Kampung Tambirat, Asajaya, Samarahan:

A visit to Kampung Tambirat, Asajaya were made on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2004. The entourage comprised of 14 members of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central led by President Sylvester Fong who presented the flood victims with the cash donation and the food supplies.



The remains of the 6 houses that were wiped away by the strong current.

With the help of Asajaya District office, the names of the six families, whose houses were destroyed by the flood, were relayed to the Rotary Club of Kuching Central and they are:

1. Encik Sabli bin Junit
2. Encik Busrah bin Pani
3. Encik Umat bin Eri
4. Encik Suhaili bin Sabli
5. Encik Sarkawi bin Epang
6. Encik Abdullah bin Fauzi

President Sylvester Fong of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central was at the District Office of Asajaya to handover the humanitarian aids to the six families in the presence of District

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Officer Encik Mohd Ainnie Wahab, Temenggong Hj. Bolhasan bin Bongom, Penghulu Hj. Tamel bin Mohd, Jawatan Kuasa Kebajikan and members of the club. Each family was given RM500 in cash as well as RM100 worth of food supplies such as instant noodles, biscuits, oat meals, cooking oil, condense milk, milo, sugar etc.

“The sum of money donated may not be adequate to help the families rebuild their houses but it will at least help them to cover their daily living needs for the time being”, said President Sylvester Fong. “We have come forward to ‘Lend a Hand’ and we hope that this move will inspire other NGOs and individuals to come forward to provide similar help”, said Sylvester.



President Sylvester Fong presenting the club's banner to District Officer, En. Mohd. Ainnie Wahab. Also in the picture Temenggong Hj. Bolhasan bin Bongom (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Penghulu Hj. Tamel bin Mohd (2<sup>nd</sup> right), PP Andre Suharto, the project coordinator (1<sup>st</sup> right), PP. Abel Chieng (5<sup>th</sup> left) who helped with the logistics and other members of the club.



Members of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central together with the six donor recipients, District Officer Mohd Ainnie Wahab (7<sup>th</sup> from right) and President Sylvester Fong (9<sup>th</sup> from right) with the donated food

The destroyed houses were not far from each other located at the embankment of river Batang Samarahan. At between 8.30am and 9.00am, after continuous heavy downpour, one of the houses started to give way. The debris was dragged by the river water and knocked the other houses one by one. Fortunately, no one was killed in this tragic incident. Today, the affected families have been relocated and given shelter by the Sarawak State Government.

District Asajaya has a population of around 13,000 people while Kampung Tambirat approximately has 2,600 people who are mostly fishermen, farmers and labourers.

**Kampung Podam, Bau:**

Nine members of the club, led by President Sylvester Fong, left Kuching for Kampung Podam, Bau at 9am on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2004. We traveled in 3 units of 4-wheel drive vehicles. We visited the Bau District office and thereafter was led to Kampung Podam by Senior Administrative Officer, En. Abdul Rahman Barahim. The village comprises mostly of Bidayuh whose main religion is Christian. However, there were 3 Bidayuh families who are Moslems. There are a total of 594 people living in this village whose main source of income is either farmer or contract labourer.

We visited the three families whose houses were damaged by landslides as their houses are built by the side of a high ground. The details of the families are as follows:

Name of affected families	Remarks
Abu anak Gasir	17-year old son, Kevin, died due to collapse wall which fell on him.
Makil anak Gihit	
Edmund Moting anak Tikus	



President Sylvester Fong, handing the RM500 cash and donation of food supplies to Abu anak Gasir (Kevin's father). Also in the picture are members of the club together head of the village, Sylvester Johen anak Jimbek (3<sup>rd</sup> left).

Upon arrival at Kampung Podam, we visited the head of the village, Sylvester Johen anak Jimbek, who led us to each of the respective families. Each family was given RM500 cash and food supplies such as instant noodles, biscuits, oat meals, cooking oil, condense milk, milo, sugar etc. In Bau District, there are altogether 7 villages that were affected by landslides affecting 11 houses. In addition, there are a total of 5,394 people from 42 villages who were relocated to relief centers because of the flood.

#### ***How the funds were raised:***

PP Andre Suharto, Director of Public Relations & Communications of the Rotary Club of Kuching Central broadcasted the news of the flood to many Rotary Clubs through the Rotary District 3310 eGroup. The news caught the attention of the Rotary District 3310 Internet Communications Co-ordinator, Past President Dr. Ho Loon Shin of the Rotary Club of Kulai, who indicated that in time like this, Rotary clubs can show that Rotary 'cares' by lending a hand to the flood victims especially the hard core poor. Through the prompt coordinating efforts of Dr Ho and the immediate support of President Sylvester Fong and our members and supporters, a total sum of RM5,100 was raised from 4 Rotary Clubs in Johor and the Rotary Club of Kuching Central, Sarawak. In addition, District Governor David Tong kindly allocated RM3,000 from the District Disaster Relief Fund, bringing the total funds receivable to RM8,100. The respond was overwhelming as the money was raised in less than a week (see below for details of the funds raised).



Edmund Moting anak Tikus receiving the donation. He was touched by the generosity of the Rotarians especially after knowing that the donation also came from outside of Sarawak. Edmund is a contract labourer.

	<b>Name of Donors</b>	<b>Amount Donated</b>
1	Rotary International District 3310 Disaster Relief Fund	RM3,000.00
2	Rotary Club of Kuching Central & supporters	RM1,600.00
3	Rotary Club of Puteri Lagoon	RM1,000.00
4	Rotary Club of Johor Bahru	RM1,000.00
5	Rotary Club of Pontian	RM1,000.00
6	Rotary Club of Kulai	RM500.00
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS RAISED</b>	<b>RM8,100.00</b>



The food supplies for the 138 families of Kg Podam at the residence of Sylvester Johen anak Jimbek, head of the village.



Members of the club 'Lend a Hand' in unloading the boxes of food supplies from the Khong Guan vehicle at the residence of the head of Kg Podam.

### PAN BORNEO

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> PAN BORNEO TO BE HELD IN KK FROM 19-21 MARCH 2004 ?

## ***WHAT'S ON - IN THE ROTARY CALENDAR?***

	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>Dinner to welcome PDG Paul McKie</i></b>	<b><i>TBA</i></b>	<b><i>23 Feb'04</i></b>	<b><i>PP. Abel Chieng</i></b>
2	Submission of District Awards (Category A-service avenues award)	Must be received by District Award Committee	1 Mar'04	Respective service directors
3	Rotary International Nite (in conjunction with the arrival of the Centennial Bell)	Sarawak Tourism Complex (Old court House)	Either 8-10 Mar'04@7.30 pm	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
4	17 <sup>th</sup> PAN BORNEO Meet	Shangrila Hotel, Kota Kinabalu	19-20 Mar'04	Rtn Thomas Ngu
5	District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) (organized by R.C. of Skudai)	Mutiara Hotel Johor Bahru	Mar'04	PP. Andre Suharto
6	Membership Development Seminar (organized by R.C. of Bugis Junction)	Singapore	20 Mar'04	Rtn Thomas Ngu
7	Intercity Meeting (organized by R.C. of Spore West)	Singapore	8 Apr'04	Rtn Thomas Ngu
8	Submission of District Award (category B-membership & attendance)	Must be received by District Award Committee	10 April'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
9	14 <sup>th</sup> District Assembly (Hosted by R.C. of Kota Melaka & Singapore)	Renaissance Melaka Hotel	22-25 April'04	Rtn. Thomas Ngu
10	International Avoidable Blindness Conference (Hosted by R.C. Singapore East)	Suntec City, Convention Hall, Singapore	1-2 May'04	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
<b><i>11</i></b>	<b><i>Sales of Nasi Lemak</i></b>	<b><i>School of the Mentally Retarded</i></b>	<b><i>2 May'04</i></b>	<b><i>PP. Patrick Yu</i></b>
12	2004 Rotary International Convention	Osaka, Japan	23-26 May 2004	PP. Polycarp Teo Sebom
13	2005 Rotary International Convention	Chicago, Illinois, USA	19-22 June 2005	TBA
14	2005 Rotary International Convention	Copenhagen, Denmark & Malmo, Sweden	11-14 June 2006	TBA

**Notes: Events printed in italic bold are new events which have just been included in this issue. TBA= To Be Announced.**

#### DAUGHTER CLUBS:

R.C. of Kuching South  
R. C. of Petra Jaya

#### SISTER CLUBS:

R.C. of Chia Yii West, Taiwan  
R.C. of Melaka  
R.C. of Queenstown, Singapore