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Beyond race, religion



> Early hardships motivate woman to help the less fortunate

BY **HAIKAL JALIL**
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PETALING JAYA: It was the hardship during childhood that motivated MyHero Award 2.0 winner, Wong Siew Sin (*pix*), to help the less fortunate.

The 57-year-old Sabahan, fondly known as Dolly, believes in helping those in need regardless of race, colour or religion.

Her selfless deeds won the hearts of residents in Muslim-majority Kampung Cenderakasih near Kota Kinabalu, who allowed her to preside over the village's Rukun Tetangga despite her Catholic background.

"My life's journey has always been linked to helping other people. Helping others brings me great fulfilment," said Dolly, who has 12 siblings. Her father was the sole breadwinner and worked as a lorry driver, while her mother was a housewife.

With her father away at work and her mother suffering from a long illness, the responsibility of caring for, cooking and feeding her siblings fell on her shoulders at a very young age.

"I used to cry at night over the hardships I had to endure. The hardships and poverty drove me to help others struggling with their lives." Dolly, who works as a small-scale contractor, would use part of her earnings for charity work, which included giving donations to places of worship.



She donated to a mosque in Kampung Cenderakasih to build a water tank for Muslims to do their ablution, and also to buy tables and chairs for Quran

reading classes.

When Sabah was hit by an earthquake last year, Dolly was among the first to help by driving a truck load of fresh water and food to affected villages.

The MyHero Award 2.0, jointly organised by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor and *Nanyang Siang Pau*, is supported by the National Unity and Integration Department, the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, with corporate partner Sunsuria Bhd and sponsored by the Bank of China.

Home rapped over 'caged' disabled kids

KUALA LUMPUR: Caging residents in welfare homes is not a standard operating procedure (SOP), said Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim.

She was commenting on a children's welfare home in Batu Gajah, and said children should not be put in enclosures under any circumstances.

"We are very serious about this. Although they are disabled, mentally unstable or violent, this is not our SOP. This is a private care centre but it must follow the ministry's SOP.

"There must be counselling and special treatment, you cannot cage them up," she said at the Parliament lobby.

Rohani said if a welfare home or centre is unable to handle the

children, it should seek assistance from the nearest Community Rehabilitation Centre.

"We have child psychologists, and if there are violent, mentally challenged or critical cases, the rehabilitation centres can groom them. I understand they can be violent. But there is no reason to cage them. We (should) give them more special care," she said.

Her deputy, Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun, who visited the home, said they have asked psychiatrists and doctors to examine the children.

Perak health committee chairman Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon, who was present, said he would be bringing in the experts. — by **Karen Arukesamy** and **P. Chandra Sagaran**

Bakery to act over rat issue

PETALING JAYA: A bakery franchise will temporarily close its outlet in Mid Valley Megamall after pictures showing a rat on a tray of bread at the store went viral.

In a Facebook post, Komugi Malaysia yesterday apologised for what it described as an

"unfortunate incident".

It said the closure was an immediate measure to assist the relevant authorities in their investigations.

"Komugi takes note of the incident and would like to apologise for any inconvenience to customers."