



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Samling brings free healthcare to remote Baram communities

MIRI, 21 SEPTEMBER 2014 – More than 1,000 villagers from remote areas in the Upper Baram and Upper Tinjar regions of Sarawak received free healthcare services brought in over the weekend through Karnival Kesihatan Komuniti 2014, a medical outreach programme initiated and organised by Samling Group of Companies and Yaw Teck Seng Foundation.

Over 4,000 treatments were dispensed which included health screening, counseling and medication to villagers whose access to medical care is often difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

Telang Usan assemblyman, Dennis Ngau, officiated the event on Friday and lauded Samling's continued corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, especially the company's longtime focus on the communities in the areas of its operations. Dennis regarded Samling as an important partner in the economic progress of Baram, citing the creation of job opportunities and increased quality of life through increased access via logging roads as examples. He stressed on the need for the private sector to work together with the government in building infrastructure and other necessities needed by the people so that development and progress could be accelerated.

For the programme, Samling and Yaw Teck Seng Foundation partnered medical teams from Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia represented by Miri General Hospital, Miri Divisional Health Department, Miri Divisional Dental Department and Miri Divisional Pharmacy Unit. The Royal Malay Regiment also participated by providing dental service, as well as security with their presence and transport for dental equipment.

On top of providing transport and meals for villagers seeking treatment, Samling was also responsible for the logistics of the programme including transport, meals and accommodation to the delegation of 117 people. The forestry company's Central Base Camp at KM10 converted its mess hall to consultation areas to accommodate the various medical services and the throng of villagers.

"We hope it is evident through this programme that we take our CSR commitments very seriously, as Samling is proud to be able to play our part in improving the health quality of the people in Baram," said Andrew Wee, Samling's Assistant General Manager of Group Administration.



“We also understand that an event of this scale is impossible to be accomplished without solid cooperation among trustworthy partners. We strongly believe in the collaboration between the public and private sectors and we have always demonstrated this belief in the way we operate as a company,” added Wee.

The three-day event made available treatments such as general health screening with checks for blood pressure and sugar levels, visual acuity examination and eyewear prescription, dental services and orthopedic treatments. The womenfolk also had the option to receive mother-child health care and gynecological check-ups.

Other than that, patients also received awareness and tests on detecting malaria, leprosy and tuberculosis. The medical team this year also included eye specialists and general surgeons to perform simple surgical procedure on-site, in addition to health advice from physiotherapists, psychologists and paediatricians.

“We called this programme a ‘carnival’ because the villagers are given the options to choose from the various types of treatments available based on their health needs, just like being at a funfair with many game stalls, but with greater benefits,” quipped Wee.

This medical outreach programme is the tenth conducted by Samling, and the third one under the Karnival Kesihatan Komuniti banner. The first medical outreach programme was launched in October 2009.

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About Samling (www.samling.com)

Samling Group of Companies is an integrated forest resource, plantation and wood products company based in Sarawak. The Group has an established international presence with strategically located operations in Malaysia, Guyana, New Zealand and China. We have a long track record of forest management expertise with integrated operations covering the entire wood supply chain from forest resource to manufactured wood products. As a leader player in the natural resources sector, we are committed to creating long-term value under sustainable principles.

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