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# Subsidy for low-income families

Pilot project offers monthly fuel aid and cash for food items

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**M**YKASIH Foundation has kicked off a pilot project, offering a monthly fuel subsidy of RM20 for a year to 40 low-income families in Kampung Sungai Kayu Ara, Petaling Jaya.

The residents need to use their MyKad to get the subsidy at BHP petrol stations in the neighbourhood.

Housewife Siti Halimah Sabran, 50, said the fuel subsidy would help ease her financial burden, adding that she spent about RM5 on petrol every week for her motorcycle.

Siti Halimah also receives RM80 per month from MyKasih to spend on essential food items under the "Love My Neighbourhood" programme.

"This is usually spent on rice,

cooking oil and seasonings. I have to top up a little money to buy vegetables and meat," she said.

Siti Halimah said the system was simple as all she needed to do was to present her MyKad when making purchases.

This cashless payment system for essential food items has been running since 2009 and MyKasih is extending the scheme with the new petrol subsidy project.

"In due course, we will extend this scheme to include other petrol stations and other low-income neighbourhoods," said MyKasih Foundation managing director Jeffrey Perera at the launch of the project.

He added that the initiative was made possible by funding from corporations and individuals.

"We may expand the scheme to include public transportation and electricity bills for low-income households," he said.

Perera said the cashless system was the most effective way to reach out to the needy and to keep track of donor funds.

"Our donors want to know what we spend the money on and this is how we can show them the money goes directly to the recipients via their MyKad," he said.

The MyKasih system is programmed to allow recipients a limit of RM20 per week for essential items.

This is to ensure families always have some money to spend for the whole month, and not spend it all in one purchase during the first week.

BHPetrol managing director KT Tan, who also attended the launch, said the petrol subsidy scheme was part of its corporate social responsibility to help the less fortunate cope with the rising cost of living.

The event was also attended by MyKasih Foundation trustee Datuk Badlisham Ghazali.

1 The families under the care of the MyKasih Foundation's "Love My Neighbourhood Programme" are given RM80 per month to spend on essential food items.

2 Siti Halimah says the system is simple as all she needs to do is

present her MyKad when making purchases.

3 According to Perera, the cashless system is the most effective way to reach out to the needy.

— Photos by **LOW LAY PHON**

