

FOOD BANK MALAYSIA PROGRAMME

COLLECTION CENTRE TO START OPERATING NEXT MONTH

New facility will ensure distribution process is more organised

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THE government's first distribution centre for the Food Bank Malaysia programme in Bukit Angkat, Selangor, is expected to be operational early next month.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the centre ensured that food contributions would be gathered in one place before they were distributed, including during natural disasters.

"Since the programme's initiation two years ago, it has benefited more than 476,250 poor households.

"The amount of food from donors is increasing. With the distribution centre, the collection and distribution process will be more organised," he said after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between Yayasan Food Bank Malaysia (YFBM) and Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd, here, yesterday.

YFBM was represented by its chief executive officer (CEO) Ab Wahab Long and Nestle by CEO Juan Aranols,

Saifuddin said his ministry planned to set up the programme in 123 higher education institutions this year.



Yayasan Food Bank Malaysia chief executive officer Ab Wahab Long (third from right) exchanging documents with Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd chief executive officer Juan Aranols during a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony witnessed by Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (second from right) in Putrajaya yesterday. With them are (from left) the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Muez Abd Aziz, Nestle (Malaysia) chairman Tan Sri Anwar Jamalullail and Deputy Minister Chong Chieng Jen. PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

"About 12,251 students have benefited from the Food Siswa programme. We hope to increase that number this year."

Under the two-year partnership, Nestle will provide food products such as Milo, Nescafe and breakfast cereals to more than 50,000 families from the Bottom 40 (B40) income group, welfare homes and underprivileged university students.

Saifuddin said his ministry was pleased to collaborate with Nestle to ensure that

the Food Bank Malaysia programme continued to meet the needs of B40 families.

Aranols said through the programme, the company would contribute its products with the aim of nourishing poor families and youths every year.

"As the largest food and beverage manufacturer, we have the expertise and scale that can be channelled towards effective solutions, such as the Food Bank Malaysia programme," he added.