

Tie-up aims to reduce food waste

F&B company teams up with food bank to channel edible products to B40 group

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NESTLE Malaysia Bhd is partnering with Yayasan Food Bank Malaysia (YFBM) to help provide food and beverage products to over 50,000 families and youths in the B40 group annually.

Under the two-year partnership, Nestle will contribute surplus nutritious, high-quality products to the targeted groups.

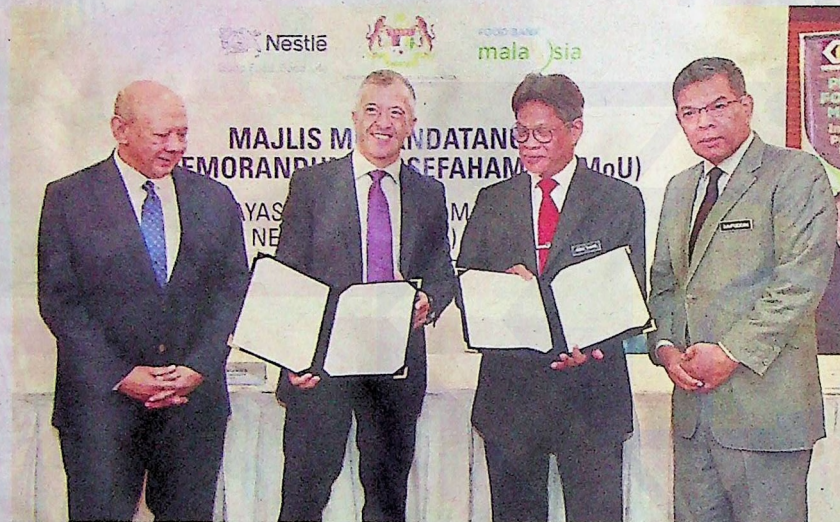
A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between Nestle and YFBM at the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry in Putrajaya.

Nestle Malaysia chief executive officer Juan Aranols said the partnership was part of the Food Bank Malaysia programme which was initiated on Dec 22, 2018, to help reduce cost of living and prevent food wastage.

He explained that Nestle would be giving out products like Milo, Nescafe and Nestle Breakfast cereals to families and youths living below the poverty line.

"Through this partnership, Nestle Malaysia will also be supporting Food Bank Siswa, a programme that channels the donated Nestle products to underprivileged university students."

In addressing the issue of food wastage, Aranols said, "Although



(From second left) Aranols and Abdul Wahab after the MOU ceremony at the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry in Putrajaya. With them are Syed Anwar (left) and Saifuddin Nasution.

we endeavour to ensure our processes are as efficient as possible and have continued to drive waste out of our business, there are occasions in our own complex value chain where some products do not end up being sold as intended.

"Here, we are keen to donate these surplus foods that are still perfectly good to eat.

"As the largest food and beverage manufacturer worldwide, we have the expertise, size and scale

that can be channelled towards effective solutions, such as the Food Bank Malaysia programme.

"These efforts are also in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal which aims to reduce half of overall food surplus by retail and consumer industries by 2030," he pointed out.

Signing the MOU were YFBM chief executive officer Abdul Wahab Long and Aranols, wit-

nessed by Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Nestle Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Syed Anwar Jamalullail.

In his speech, Saifuddin said the Food Bank Malaysia programme aimed to reach 123 institutions of higher education this year.

Since last year, he said the programme had secured 2,000 metric tonnes of food which benefitted 480,000 households.

Meanwhile, the Food Bank Siswa programme has benefitted more than 12,000 undergraduates at 21 public universities.

Speaking to reporters later, Saifuddin urged corporations to emulate Nestle by participating in the Food Bank Malaysia programme as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative.

"This is the perfect example of establishing collaboration with the ministry to help poor families in Malaysia," he said, adding that Nestle was also the ministry's strategic partner for the Universiti Teknologi Mara Food Bank Siswa programme.

Meanwhile, Syed Anwar said Nestle Malaysia was honoured to be part of the programme.

"We create value for the community that we operate in," he added.

Aranols told the media that Nestle was thankful for the trust given through the partnership.

"This is a very good way of using (our) products. We have a channel for final consumption by families with higher needs to reduce wastage," he said.

Also present at the event were Deputy Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Chong Chieng Jen and ministry secretary-general Datuk Muez Abdul Aziz.