

BANK ISLAM ADDRESSES PERIOD POVERTY ISSUE AMONG TEENAGE GIRLS IN SARAWAK

Over 250 female students at SMK Tebakang benefit from the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Programme

KUCHING, SARAWAK, Wednesday, [15 October 2025]: Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (Bank Islam or the Bank) continues to demonstrate its commitment to social development and community well-being through the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Programme organised at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tebakang, Serian, Sarawak. In collaboration with Athena Holdings Sdn Bhd (Athena), this one-day program benefits over 250 female students aged between 13 and 14 at the school.

Through Bank Islam's Sadaqa House Fund, a total contribution of RM37,500 was channelled to provide reusable menstrual hygiene kits and reproductive health educational materials to the participating students. This initiative aims to address the issue of period poverty and empower female students living in rural areas, by equipping them with essential/basic knowledge about menstruation, helping them overcome social stigma, and encouraging better personal hygiene practices.

Bank Islam's Director of Social Finance, Mohd Zikri Mohd Shairy, said, "The MHM initiative is a continuation of the inaugural joint effort between the Bank and Athena, which involved 47 female students from Rumah Anak Yatim dan Miskin Kampung Silad, Ranau, Sabah back in 2019. With the continued public support for Sadaqa House Bank Islam, this collaboration has been further strengthened to benefit more than 250 students at SMK Tebakang."

"The MHM programme not only aims to raise participants' awareness of reproductive health, but also encourages open discussions and educates them on the use of more sustainable menstrual management products, such as reusable sanitary pads," he said.

Mohd Zikri added, "Bank Islam is deeply grateful for the trust and generosity of donors towards Sadaqa House, which has made it possible for us to organise impactful initiatives across the country. We welcome the support of various parties in our efforts to enhance the well-being of the community, especially vulnerable groups."

Founder and Impact Director of Athena Holdings Sdn Bhd, Anja Juliah, said, "The Menstrual Hygiene Management Programme is not just about imparting knowledge on menstruation, but also about creating space for young girls to understand their bodies, uphold their dignity, and become voices of change within their communities, while believing that it is through education that they can go further in life."

The public can channel their contributions to the Sadaqa House Fund via account number 140 140 101 88888 or visit the Sadaqa House website at www.sadaqahouse.com.my for more information.

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