

CHILDREN OF MALAYSIANS HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

By: AHMAD ZIAD SULAIMAN



Some 200 children of Malaysians in North Palmerston, New Zealand did the country proud when they successfully staged a charity concert, "Road to Recovery Concert 2010" which went to that Malaysians remained to be a caring lot although they were abroad.

The concert attracted more than 1,000 people who came to watch cultural performances at the Reagent Theatre Hall aimed at raising funds to help earthquake victims at Christchurch and flood victims in Pakistan.

According to UMP senior lecturer, Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman, who was pursuing his doctorate at School of Engineering and Advanced Technology, Massey University, he was proud to see how committed the children in putting up the show.

"We, as the parents, were certainly proud of what

they had done.

"They managed to hold an array of performances that showcase the multi-ethnicity and culture of Malaysia," he added.

The children, aged between four and 12, performed 20 shows including a Malay wedding, 'silat' and a 'joget' dance. They were trained for three weeks by Puan Raja Haslinda.

Ahmad Ziad also said the costumes and stage props were contributed by the parents, adding, the concert was a platform for Malaysians to showcase their culture to locals.

"At the same time, we help to raise fund for the victims.

"We really sympathise with our neighbours at the South Island who were affected by the earthquake in September that destroyed more than 100,000 houses," he added.

He said they also made contributions to victims in Pakistan and that a disaster fund



was launched two months ago.

The concert was organised by Pakistan New Zealand Friendship Association president Karl Gill dan Tehseen Aslam and among the guests who attended it were Pakistan acting High Commissioner, North Palmerston Mayor, its Members of Parliament, company directors and North Palmerston association presidents.