

## Needy children, old folk receive gifts during celebration



**Cash aid:** Abdul Rahman (centre) and Suppiah (in white) posing for a photograph with representatives from various homes.



**Tucking in:** Young boys enjoying some food in Bayan Baru.

CHILDREN and old folk of the Seri Cahaya Welfare Home in Permatang Damar Laut on Penang island were treated to a belated Deepavali party.

Organised by Datuk Wong Kam Hoong service team and Ivorycares, which is Ivory Properties Group charitable arm, the residents of the home were given a lunch treat, ang pows and some gifts during the event.

Deputy Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Wong Kam Hoong said they had prepared a set of stationery each for the children and allocated a RM2,500 fund for the home.

"Malaysia is a multi-racial country and we are happy to celebrate any festivals together with all the different races," he said in his speech.

He added that "sharing and giving" was a true Malaysian spirit that reflected the unity and integrity among the people.

Ivory Properties Group executive director Datuk Nazir Ariff, who attended the function, also pledged to donate RM2,000 to the home.

Over 20 volunteers from Ivorycares also brought along food-stuff and a RM8 ang pow for and every resident and volunteer in the home.

Four charity homes received cash aid from Sri Maha Mariamman Devasthanam chairman Suppiah Manickam at the businessman's Deepavali open house in Seberang Jaya, near Butterworth, recently.

Shan Children Home in Taman Indrawasih, Prai, the National Autistic Centre, Bagan Ajam in Butter-



**Apt gifts:** Wong (left) presenting a goody bag to a young boy.

worth, School for Mentally Handicapped Children in Bukit Mertajam and Persatuan Pembangunan Anak Anak Yatim Bekas Parajuit Malaysia in Kulim, Kedah, each received RM1,000 from Suppiah.

Also present at the gathering were Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas and North Seberang Prai OCPD Asst Comm Wan Abdullah Tuanku Said and Central Seberang Prai OCPD Asst Comm Mohd Anil Shah Abdullah.

About 500 Bayan Baru residents were treated to a Deepavali performance and dinner at the Bayan Baru community hall recently.

The event was jointly organised by the Bayan Baru Residents

Association, Bayan Baru Newspaper Vendors Association, South-west Indian Welfare Association and Raj Ranjers Bayan Baru football team.

In his welcoming address, Bayan Baru Newspaper Vendor Association chairman M. Murugesu said the gathering was meant for residents of all races to get together and celebrate in the *muhibbah* spirit.

"Tonight we are also giving away hampers to the elderly, underprivileged and single mothers. We also gave away cash rewards to students who achieved good results in the recent SPM, PMR and UPSR examinations. This is to encourage them to strive harder," he said.