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Visual impairment no hindrance to lass

Syarnissa seeks scholarship to study abroad

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PHYSICAL disability has not stopped 19-year-old Syarnissa Ahmad from excelling in her studies and striving to do more.

The lass, who was born with spina bifida, is totally blind in the left eye due to glaucoma. Her right eye requires a high-powered lens for some vision.

"When I was about to enter kindergarten, doctors advised my parents to send me to a special school but I insisted on going to a normal school.

"Since then, I have always strived to do my best in my studies," said Syarnissa, who scored 8As in her SPM.

Syarnissa said she studied accounting on her own at home as she could not see whatever was taught in class.

"My school friends are very helpful," she said.

Syarnissa is currently doing accounting at UIA but she hopes to get a scholarship to study the subject abroad, for more exposure.

She has applied for various scholarships but all her applications were rejected due to her physical condition.

"I think it is not fair that I am deprived of a sound education just because of my disability. I am hardworking and I have always strived to do my best.

"I understand I can't be a doctor or an engineer due to my condition but I can be an accountant," she said during the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) open house on Jan 12.

During the event, Syarnissa was one of the students who received awards for academic excellence from the association.

The event gathered some 1,500 blind and visually impaired peo-

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SYARNISSA AHMAD



Syarnissa: She was born with glaucoma in her left eye that resulted in total blindness, while her right eye requires a high-powered lens for some vision.

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Volunteers help to make event a success

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ple, including those from Pahang, Malacca and Negri Sembilan.

Besides good food, there were some stage performances to entertain those present.

Helping out during the event were volunteers from UIA, HSBC,

Satya Sai Baba, Universiti Malaya, Maxis and Universiti Putra Malaysia, as well as some individual volunteers.

Also present at the event were MAB president Datuk Dr Ismail Md Salleh and Social Welfare Department director-general Meme Zainal Rashid.



Kind souls: The volunteers at the open house from UIA, HSBC, Satya Sai Baba, Universiti Malaya, Maxis and Universiti Putra Malaysia, and other individuals.



Get together: The open house at MAB brought together many blind and visually impaired people.



Merry music: The crowd was also entertained by musicians during the open house.