



HELPING HAND: Mazlan has been donating blood since 1989 — Pic: SHAHIR OMAR

# Shot in the arm for blood bank

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Until Sunday, Malaysians all over the country will have the opportunity to give the greatest gift of all to their fellow Malaysians — in the form of their precious blood.

The nationwide donation drive is jointly organised by the Life Insurance Association of Malaysia (LIAM), Persatuan Insurans Am Malaysia (PIAM) and the National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAMLIFA).

Executive Zainurin Zainal,

36, was among the first to turn up. "The blood supply reserve in the country will fall dangerously low if we don't step out to donate regularly. This is my chance to help others in need."

Driver Mazlan Sudini, 59, from Johor said: "If you can donate blood, then you should do so as you may have a better idea on your of health. In a way, it is like a free medical checkup."

On his seventh donation, he said: "I wasn't as afraid as I was during my first in 1989. It doesn't hurt as much as some people think."

There are 17 centres opened nationwide.

They include the CIMB Aviva centre at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, MCIS Zurich Petaling Jaya, Uni.Asia Life headquarters at Jalan Tun Tan Siew Lin and Maju Junction, headed by LIAM, PIAM and NAMLIFA.

On behalf of the organisers, LIAM president Md Adnan Md Zain said: We want a single-minded event to help the National Blood Bank get as much-needed replenishment of blood supply and we encourage Malaysians to share this gift of life."