

Dengue busters represent Kelantan

A GROUP of 40 students from SMK Jeli, Kelantan have become ambassadors for a dengue patrol squad.

They are taking up the challenge of making a difference.

The Health and Education Ministries organised a dengue patrol award competition aimed at minimising dengue fever cases.

The Dengue Patrol Squad members consist of the Young Doctors Club and ICT Club. The students are using their skills in various areas such as communication, performing arts, craft and ICT to maximise the impact of the campaign.

Winning the Gold Award in Kelantan at the state level has boosted the team's confidence. They have reached out to the community via various platforms. Apart from sharing information about dengue and highlighting the programmes through Facebook, Youtube and Instagram, the team have also expressed their creativity through a series of roadshows within the state. One of them was held in Kampung Sungai Rual where the team had approached the indigenous Jahai community during the Jahai Carnival at the end of July.

The team carried out various activities such as dikir barat, an exhibition and ruzumi games. They also spoke to the residents of Kampung Jahai about preventing Aedes mosquitoes. One of the dengue patrol squad members, Nur Ain Hasanah, 14, said that the pro-



The school's dengue patrol squad members worked as a team with the Jeli health district inspectors to hang campaign banners.

gramme contributed to her confidence in communication.

"I needed to do research and refer to the materials given by the health district officer to make sure that I was delivering the right information," she added.

The team also carried out a roadshow at public places such as the wet market in the Tanah Merah district and a supermarket in Pasir Puteh. The squad conducted a quiz for visitors too.

One of the participating teachers, Nik Nor Hanim Ayuni Baharom, said the programme started off as a contest at first. But the students no longer see the award as the driving factor as more non-members came forward to volunteer and contribute to the campaign programmes.

She added that the networking

built between the school and district health office was of great help. The squad also joined the dengue inspectorate staff from the Jeli district health office during an epidemic declared for two weeks in June in Kg Ayer Lanas. Among the activities were mobile announcements about the dengue outbreak and housing area inspections. To be able to hold the microphone themselves and make the announcements to the residents was a great experience for the squad members. It has given them a sense of responsibility as a part of the community.

The team is representing Kelantan for the National Dengue Patrol Award 2019.

Nik Nor Hanim Ayuni Baharom is a teacher at SMK Jeli in Jeli, Kelantan.