

COMMUNITY CARE

IKATAN EYES SAFETY IN TAHFIZ SCHOOLS

NGO receives requests to create awareness in tahfiz schools, says chairman

TEH'ATHIRA YUSOF
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

NEWLY-FORMED non-governmental organisation Alliance of Safety Community (Ikatan) will add tahfiz schools to its list of entities that will be educated on aspects of safety.

Ikatan chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said the NGO, which aimed to be a "constructive critic" to the government, had re-

ceived requests to address safety issues in tahfiz schools.

"Ikatan wants to be perceived as a partner to government departments and agencies, and aims to serve the people as all its activities are aligned with the (Housing and Local Government Ministry's) National Community Policy.

"Ikatan's target areas include residents of low-cost housing programmes to boost the B40 group's knowledge of safety and security.

"We have received requests to oversee and promote safety awareness in tahfiz schools. The exco members and I will conduct visits and engage the registered schools," Lee said at a press conference after Ikatan's launch at Kelab Darul Ehsan here yesterday.

Lee added that Ikatan was looking to serve the community by



Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin practising first aid on a volunteer during the launch of Ikatan in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With her is Ikatan chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye. PIC BY KHAIRUL AZHAR AHMAD

raising awareness of preventive safety among housewives, children and the elderly.

"Ikatan was established not only to cooperate with the police and the authorities to address crimes through prevention awareness but also to foster a community that cares for each other.

"It is not competing with other NGOs but complementing them to achieve their respective targets."

Lee called on corporations to collaborate with Ikatan as part of their corporate social responsibility programmes and urged for more volunteers to join them to empower the community.

At the event, Ikatan handed over a safety assessment report on the Taman Dagang Jaya residential area in Ampang to Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

Ikatan will work with the

Transport Ministry to educate the public on road safety in Seremban next month.

Zuraida, who officiated at the launch yesterday, lauded Ikatan's initiative to educate and build a caring community.

Present were Lembah Jaya assemblyman Haniza Mohamed Talha, PLUS Malaysia managing director Datuk Azman Ismail and 3M Malaysia managing director Parameswaran Nair.