

Preparing pupils for exams

THE East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) together with its strategic partners have been organising additional workshops on top of the ongoing tuition and motivational classes, as part of its efforts to ensure that pupils in the region achieve better grades in the national exams.

When preparing for the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) examination this year, more than 3,400 pupils from 140 schools across Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and the district of Mersing in Johor, were selected to participate in ECERDC's empower ECER Academic Training programme. This included some 838 Orang Asli pupils, largely from the rural areas in the region.

The empower ECER Academic Training programme focuses on improving the academic achievement of underperforming students from low-income households.

This is in line with the Government's inclusive strategy to ensure that the younger generation in ECER will be able to attain academic excellence and further their studies. Between 2010 and 2017, ECERDC's empower ECER programme had reached out to 51,400 pupils through the Academic Training Programme.

Recognising the need for a targeted approach to meet the different needs and challenges faced by the Orang Asli pupils, ECERDC partnered with MyKasih Foundation through the empower ECER-MyKasih programme.

In addition to the academic and motivational sessions offered by ECERDC's strategic partners, MyKasih Foundation has been supporting 3,700 Orang Asli pupils from 18 Orang Asli schools in ECER under the 'Love My School' student bursary programme.

Under this programme, benefi-

ciaries receive RM60 per month via their MyKasih student smartcard to pay for their meals at the school canteen or purchase learning necessities at the school's bookshop.

Besides tuition, motivational and leadership classes, other activities under the empower ECER-MyKasih programme include the upgrading of the school's information technology infrastructure through the 21st Century Classroom Transformation project as well as educational experiential outings.

ECERDC together with MyKasih Foundation have also recently upgraded SK Tasik Cini's Villa Gumum hostel. The hostel was built for the convenience of Orang Asli pupils who live far away and need to travel by boat to school. The hostel is opened three months prior to the UPSR exam to enable these pupils to attend additional night classes.



Pupils using laptops during classes, provided through the empower ECER-MyKasih programme under the 21st Century Classroom Transformation project.