

Social outreach for orang asli

Volunteers from medical corp conduct health screening at Tapah school

THE Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) Voluntary Corp held a successful medical camp programme for the orang asli community at SK Batu Tujoh in Tapah recently.

Members of the corp also helped to build a house for a family in Chenderiang.

MMA Voluntary Corp chairman Prof Dr Lekhraj Rampal said the house was about 80% completed and would be ready soon.

Dr Lekhraj, who is also Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences professor, said MMA paid for the materials needed to build the house while its construction was conducted by orang asli volunteers.

"The MMA has approved RM150,000 for a project which included medical camps, building houses and connecting water supply for poor orang asli.

"About 20 doctors, including several specialists from Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Teluk Intan, 101 medical students from UPM and some Health Ministry staff, participated in the event," he said.

Dr Lekhraj said during the programme, an introductory cardiopulmonary resuscitation course was also conducted for the adults while children took part in an art competition.



Waiting for their turn: Orang asli villagers who attended the medical camp at SK Batu Tujoh, in Tapah.



Creative: Orang Asli children taking part in a colouring contest during a medical camp programme organised by MMA Voluntary Corp.

"We hope to have similar programmes at least three times annually," he said, adding that the Voluntary Corp committee would hold these medical camps in each state with the cooperation of their branch members and state committees.

The total cost for the projects is expected to be between RM500,000 and RM1mil, he added.

Dr Lekhraj said the voluntary corp committee was set up this

year to instil a sense of voluntarism among the medical profession.

"The objectives of the voluntary corp are to engage with the community in socio-economic and health-related activities for vulnerable communities during disaster and peace times.

"It also aims to empower the community in health-related activities such as non-communicable disease risk factor reduction," he said.