

159 of 1000 DOCUMENTS

New Straits Times (Malaysia)

December 6, 2006 Wednesday

Deaf team gets what it didn't seek - praise

BYLINE: Leslie Andres; Rizalman Hammim; Heidi Foo; Max Koh

SECTION: ; News focus; LOCAL; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 267 words

KUALA LUMPUR: Being deaf is no disability for the six-member team from Deaf Against Child Sexual Abuse (DACSA).

Far from it, DACSA members help those with similar impairments in Malaysia.

They seek no acknowledgement, nor praise. But it was exactly that which they received last night as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi presented them with the NSTP-PwC Team Humanitarian Award.

DACSA Deaf Work senior administrator Jessica Mak Wei-E said her team did not expect to win but was excited.

"We just wanted to do good. This is a very pleasant surprise for all of us," said the 29-year-old, speaking through a sign language translator.

DACSA works with the YMCA to conduct awareness talks, workshops and education camps to prevent sexual abuse of deaf children.

"Initially we did not have any experience but it was through our interests that we gained support from NGOs to help us in holding the programmes.

"In the past three years, we have reached about 500 students through the Personal Safety and Child Sexual Abuse programme," she said.

Mak said the programme taught children to identify safe touches, make right decisions and protect themselves from abuses in adulthood.

"We want to emphasise that families of children with disabilities play a part in making the deaf proud of themselves," she said.

She hopes the Special Education Department will conduct such programmes for those with disabilities in schools in Malaysia.

DACSA received a certificate of acknowledgment and RM20,000.

The runner-up for the award went to Sathya Sai Baba Central Council of Malaysia, who won a certificate and RM10,000,

Deaf team gets what it didn't seek - praise New Straits Times (Malaysia) December 6, 2006 Wednesday

LOAD-DATE: December 5, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2006 New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad
All Rights Reserved