

# Keeping connectivity alive

## MCMC ramps up efforts to address coverage issues nationwide

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) continues to intensify efforts to address digital connectivity issues nationwide by carrying out field activities to assess the situation.

Among those facing issues were four siblings in Kampung Rambai in Arau, Perlis, who were unable to participate in home-based teaching and learning (PdPR) sessions due to poor Internet access and having only one device to share.

"MCMC brought the family over to the Community Internet Centre in Felda Chuping located 5km from their house, which is equipped with devices and other services for the community," MCMC said in a statement yesterday.

MCMC also directed service providers in the area to optimise their network from the nearby telecom-

munication tower to improve broadband coverage quality.

The process is expected to be completed at the end of this month.

In another case, there were media reports that some 70 Orang Asli pupils in Kampung Lubuk Legong in Baling, Kedah, were also having trouble participating in PdPR sessions.

According to MCMC, investigations revealed that the issue was not due to mobile broadband coverage but a lack of devices.

Speed tests done by MCMC officers confirmed that coverage quality in the village was adequate.

MCMC also said a telecommunication tower near SK Pos Brooke in Gua Musang, Kelantan, would be upgraded to 4G coverage under the National Digital Infrastructure Plan (Jendela) and was expected to be completed at the end of this year to

benefit over 300 students.

It said the same action would be taken to address coverage issues in Kampung Kuala Sat in Jerantut, Pahang, following a visit to the location on Feb 1 together with representatives from the service provider companies.

The project to upgrade the telecommunication tower near the village and several other villages in Mukim Ulu Tembeling to 4G coverage will begin in the second quarter of 2021.

Another issue addressed by MCMC was poor Internet coverage in Kampung Selindang in Lipis, Pahang, whereby a new telecommunication tower will be built under the Jendela plan.

The project is expected to start in the third quarter of this year.

The existing tower near the location will also be upgraded to 4G

coverage to improve the broadband service quality in Kampung Selindang and several other villages under a project which is expected to begin in the second quarter of this year.

On the application to upgrade the service of a telecommunication tower in Kampung Mentara Baru in Merapoh, Lipis, MCMC found that the tower had no 4G coverage.

"As a long-term solution, Digi has informed MCMC that the upgrade will be completed by mid-February with MCMC monitoring the progress.

"We will update the complainant or village representatives once the upgrading works are completed," it said, adding that the fiberisation process involving several towers, including one in Kampung Mentara Baru, was completed recently. — Bernama