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Azizah with participants of the programme.

Parents must provide proper religious guidance: Azizah

Fazilah Onong

BEAUFORT: Parents play a vital role in educating their children to enhance their interest and love for religious knowledge, said Community Development and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun.

She said the situation nowadays is very challenging and needs commitment from parents, teachers and clerics to instil values and propagate religious teachings to the young.

"Providing proper religious knowledge will produce a generation that is well behaved and possess good personality, as well as having renowned clerics that could uplift the image of the district," she said.

Azizah, who is also Klias Assemblywoman, said this when opening the "Young Bilal" and "Skuad Ziarah Masjid" programmes at Limbawang Mosque here on Sunday. A bilal is a mosque official who summons people to prayers.

The first programme in Sabah was jointly organised by Klias People's Development

Leader Unit and Sabah Islamic Affairs Department (Jheains) Beaufort division.

Azizah, who is also a patron of "Young Bilal" programme and "Skuad Ziarah Masjid", called on mosque chairmen here to give opportunities to young Bilals to enliven and energise activities of the mosques and suraus.

A total of 37 young Bilals took part in the programme and nine were selected for selection rounds and only three managed to go to the final round.

Mohd Azree Haji Moktar, 19, from Klias Kecil Mosque emerged as the winner of the programme and won a RM300 Tabung Haji deposit, a certificate and religious books.

Second place went to Mohd Norhelimie Khamis, 17, from Takuli Mosque and won a RM250 Tabung Haji deposit, a certificate and religious books, while Mohd Sabri Yakop, 17, from Landayan Surau, emerged third and received a Tabung Haji deposit of RM200, a certificate and religious books.