

# School to represent state in national-level challenge

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**KUCHING:** SMK St Elizabeth Sibü will be representing Sarawak in the national-level School Consumer Clubs Interactive Challenge hosted by the Ministry of Domestic Trade Cooperatives and Consumerism (MDTCC) with the Ministry of Education.

The team beat three other clubs at the state level of the competition held at Unimas yesterday. Second to fourth places were won by SMK Lundu, SMK Tun Abang Haji Openg Kuching and SMK Methodist Sibü respectively. Each team has four members.

The team took home RM1,000 in cash, trophy and certificates. Before being shortlisted, all four teams were the top two winners in the north and south zones.

“The ministry will fully sponsor the trip for the winning team and accompanying teacher for the national level. It will be held at Universiti Putra Malaysia from April 23 to 25, with 16 teams,” said MDTCC state director Wan Ahmad Uzir Wan Sulaiman at the closing ceremony yesterday.

He said that this year’s competition is the third edition of the challenge which was revamped from the previous



**TOP CONTENDER:** Uzir (second left) presenting the prize to SMK St Elizabeth Sibü’s Consumer Club team at the event, witnessed by deputy vice-chancellor (Students’ Affairs and Alumni) Prof Dr Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman (left). — Photo by Chimon Upon.

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Wan Ahmad Uzir Wan Sulaiman, MDTCC state director

School Consumerism Quiz, first held in 1992.

“Some of the participants today have never cycled or even held a kayak oar before. Even more amusing was that they had to learn to kayak by watching YouTube video. I am really proud of their effort,” he said.

He explained that the challenge

is a step up from the quiz which includes physical activities like cycling and kayaking. He hoped that the winning team will practise before the finals as the area in UPM is hilly and the lake is about the same size as the one in Unimas.

“We are focusing on the young consumer groups because they

are our future leaders. They will continue to be active in consumerism when they move on to tertiary education level, like in Unimas, it has a ‘Gerak Pengguna Siswa’ which is similar to the Consumer Club in secondary schools,” he said.

He added that such activities will enlighten students on their rights as consumers so that they will not be taken advantage of by unscrupulous traders and businesses. Apart from that, the ministry also provides grants of RM500 to each school club and RM3,000 to each university club, and if the club is active, the grant will be increased.