

# UMS can access SAFODA forests for learning, research

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Lecturers and students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Tropical Forest faculty (FPT) have access to 100 acres of forest owned by the Sabah Forestry Development Authority (SAFODA) in Kinarut for the purpose of learning and for research work following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LoI) between FPT UMS and SAFODA on Wednesday.

FPT dean, Professor Madya Dr Normah Awang Besar @ Raffie, represented FPT, while SAFODA was represented by the General Manager, Haji Bahrul Razha Hj Chuprat.

The event held in conjunction

with the New Year Message and the UMS vice chancellor's 100 Days was witnessed by Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.

The LoI signed also consisted of exchange of information, scientific materials and publication, aside from working in research together and the placement of industrial training for FPT students.

In a related development, FPT, at the same event, also received a sponsored four-wheel drive vehicle for the purpose of research and laboratory activities.

The vehicle was received from Yayasan Sime Darby and was presented by its representative,

Muslimin Sulta who is the manager of the Sapong and Melalap plantations.

Meanwhile, Kasim expressed his gratitude to SAFODA for the LoI cooperation and to Yayasan Sime Darby for sponsoring the vehicle.

"In addition to improving the experience and knowledge of the students, it also strengthens the research culture at UMS.

"At the same time, it also has an impact in realizing the university's efforts towards producing a society that often innovates, in line with our slogan this year, Leading towards Innovative Societies," he said.