



Professor Dr Osman Ali (third right) with delegates of the Medical School.

Pensiangan expedition for UMS Medical School staff

Shahrul Ezanee

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Medical School staff will be conducting an expedition to the Pensiangan district from May 14 to 18.

The expedition, organised by the Travel Club under the Medical School Staff Club, aims to focus on promoting health awareness among people in the rural area.

"This expedition is a little different from our previous expeditions, in which we focused more on the endurance aspect," UMS Medical School Dean, Professor Dr Osman Ali, said Thursday.

"This is the first time that our faculty will be focusing on the health awareness, with our team of experts in the medical field to help with medical situations and also to educate the rural people on the health benefits," he said.

The Medical School is heavily involved in voluntary community programmes to expose staff and students in promoting health, he said.

"During the five-day expedition, we will be promoting the medical school in three different villages, Kampung Sansandukon, Kampung Tinanduk and Kampung Pagalungan," he added.

At the same time, the staff will collect

data on the areas' prevalent health problem, namely, blood, stool, hair and dust samples, to be brought back to the university for students and members of the staff to analyse further, Osman said.

"We will also be doing health talks with topics on balanced diets, smoking, and dental hygiene," he said.

The main objective of this expedition is to collect original specimens from the area for medical teaching purposes and school academic health programmes and to give experience to the staff, especially the laboratory technicians in field work.

"A total of 24 academic and support staff will participate in this year's expedition, not including 10 drivers and three assistants," Osman said.

Osman said the estimated budget for the expedition is around RM10,000.

The faculty has been doing these expeditions every year, since 2008, across Sabah and Sarawak, namely, at Danum Valley, Mulu and Maliau Basin.

Also at hand during the press conference were Medical School Deputy Dean Associate Professor, Dr Shahril Yusof, Associate Professor Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin and Associate Professor Dr Zainal Arifin Mustapha.