

UMS got RM10m in research grants: VC

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will consider approaching the community to educate them on ways to adapt to the living environment instead of encouraging destruction to suit human needs.

UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof. Amran Ahmed, said they would bring in teams to the people, for example, those in Kundasang, to teach them how to adapt to landslide problems there.

He said the suggestion by Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister, Datuk Masidi Manjun, earlier that people there needed to be taught how to adapt to the situation to minimise loss and so forth are among the new topics discussed at the moment.

"Of course, we will impart knowledge to villagers there, so that they can adapt to nature and not do otherwise," he said after the UMS Research and Innovation closing and prize presentation ceremony.

Masidi had called for knowledge transfer, where it can be put into community engagement in relevant areas.

"For all we know, Kundasang landslides are not mainly caused by rain or other factors, but geological factors.

"Mount Kinabalu is always moving, therefore we hope UMS can come up with projects or means that can minimise the effect from it," he said.

He said efforts should be made to help the villagers alleviate the problem.

"We cannot fight nature. Therefore, they should be taught to understand and adapt to nature in this sense," Masidi stated.

On other developments, UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, said the university had managed to get a total of RM10.4 million in research grants from various sources.

"From this total amount, RM3.4 million was acquired from international and external grants," he said.

This, he said, showed just how important innovation and research was to the students as well as the Government as a whole.

Towards this end, he hoped the inventions competed could be commercialised on a larger scale in the future.