

## UMS Will Set Up a Marine Research Station at Sebatik Island

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**MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY** – Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has always been committed to the conservation of environmental sustainability and the development of rural communities, particularly in Sabah.

Thus, UMS’ proposal to build a Marine Research Station under the Borneo Marine Research Institute (IPMB) which will be based in Sebatik Island, Tawau is a good step towards that effort.

According to UMS Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah, the marine biological diversity of species found in the Cowie Bay and Sebatik Island included whales, dolphins and dugong which were valuable marine source and important to preserve.

“With the research station established, it would be easier for researchers to conduct research in the fields of marine mammals, pollution control, eco-tourism and studies on oceanography,” he said.

He said this at UMS Community Networking Programme along with the Natural Resources Secretary Office and the community of Sebatik Island.

Datuk Dr. Harun added, the research station will provide professional services and trainings in marine research and conservation, and to create a network of marine research collaboration between local and foreign agencies.

Also present at the ceremony were Acting Registrar of UMS, No’man Hj. Ahmad and Senior Deputy Registrar, Tuan Hj. Firdaus Abdullah. – *NB (fl)*

Photo: Ramdan Saleh Nain, BPK

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