

## Uncovering Dr. Rem's Affection

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**SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER** – His love for 50 four-legged fur ball friends was what brought us to his house called Rumah Pangsi situated in Tuaran, on 11 October, 2013 at 9.15 am. Dr. Rem is a scientist and a specialist in Climate Change and Climatology in Sabah and internationally. One would ask, where does he find time to take care of his furry friends given his hectic schedule as a lecturer and researcher?

Dr. Ramzah Dambul or 'Dr. Rem' as he is more affectionately known hails from Ranau, Sabah and is attached to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). He

received his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Synoptic Climatology from East Anglia University, Norwich in 2007. He is now attached to the King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah researching the long term climate change and its effect on the world socio economy.

As an expert in the study of climate change, Dr. Ramzah who is more affectionately called 'Dr. Rem', is a unique man. In an interview with him recently, Dr. Ramzah unwrapped his life story regarding the forecasting of the weather, his life with his cats and the story behind his poems.

**UMS Media: Is it true that you are attracted to the way the traditional way of forecasting the weather and how is it done?**

**Dr. Ramzah:** Yes. One of the ways I still remember to this day was when my mother would quickly pick her laundry which were still hanging on the lines because she knew that rain would be falling soon. My mother could tell just by looking at ants that would leave their habitat bringing their eggs to higher grounds. This traditional knowledge is indeed very interesting.

**UMS Media: How many cats do you have and how did the interest come about in wanting to take care of them?**

**Dr. Ramzah:** Actually, it was the feeling of empathy towards them that had led me to take care of them. In 2009, I was taking care of two cats and another three that I got from Tuaran town. All the cats were very thin and didn't have enough to eat. So, I brought them home, bathed and nursed them. I am actually allergic to cats fur. The affection towards them came because I can't help seeing them being left without being cared for. For me, cats are like human, they need attention, to be protected and loved. Because of that, I built a house especially for them which has now grown to 50 in total. This doesn't include the one that was found just a few days ago which is now quarantined because of sickness.

**UMS Media: How do you find time to care for them and how much do you spend just to take care of them?**