

# UMS students organise children's rights awareness programme

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The Early Childhood Education Club, Faculty of Psychology and Education (FPP) of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) held a Children's Rights Awareness Programme at Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kindu, Tuaran, recently.

Head of Early Childhood Education Programme FPP UMS, Dr Juppri Bacotang, said the programme aims to provide exposure to the community, especially parents, about children's rights.

He said that parents are the most important people in a child's life and have a great trust and responsibility to nurture, care for and educate children from an early age.

Juppri added that the programme, among other things, gave UMS students the opportunity to establish

close cooperation with the local community.

"Through this programme as well, students can see and feel for themselves the environment and atmosphere in rural schools to ensure they are always ready and competent to face any future challenges.

"In addition, it is also to give the students an opportunity to practice the knowledge they have learned to the target group, which is children," he said.

Juppri also emphasised the importance of early education including preschool which can help children master reading, writing, counting and reasoning skills as a basis for preparation before they go to primary school.

"Education is one of the rights that must be given to all children in order to secure their future. This needs to start from



Some of the committee members of the Children's Rights Awareness Programme at Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kindu, Tuaran.

the beginning of the child's age whether it starts at home, nursery, or even in preschool or kindergarten," he added.

Programme director Muhammad Ehsan Kamba said

the program is a collaboration between FPP and the Sabah Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM).

"Programme participants consist of parents and preschool

children who are presented with various beneficial activities such as parenting talks, teaching and learning sessions and sports.

"Apart from that, there is an activity with children carried

out by the students of the Early Childhood Education Bachelor's Degree Programme which is to make diorama crafts themed on marine life in the preschool class.

"This activity can foster children's interest in arts and crafts, and further increase their creativity and imagination," he explained.

At the programme, there was also a parenting talk explaining children's rights which include the Right to Life, the Right to Protection, the Right to Development, and the Right to Participation delivered by SUHAKAM representatives, Mohd Irsyad Hamilin and Qalista S. Dohny.

Also present, headmaster of SK Kindu, Sitiamah Sahat and Chief Assistant Secretary of SUHAKAM Sabah, Dr Alfonso Min.