

# Expedition to promote UMS to Sabah's interior

TBP 14.06.2023 P.05

**KOTA KINABALU:** A total of 100 University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) staff and students are participating in the Rentas Borneo 2023 program.

They were flagged off by Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor on Tuesday. The program which is from June 13 to 17 will take place in Kampung Long Pasia, Sipitang.

Kassim said the theme of the program is 'To Long Pasia' and it is organized by UMS' Four Wheel Drive Volunteer Club (UMS4WDVC).

This is UMS' corporate social responsibility (CSR) program to the interior of Sabah that emphasizes the role of UMS in transferring and sharing knowledge with the community.

According to Kassim, the program started in 2014 in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of UMS whereby university staff and students visit districts in the state to promote UMS to the community,

especially those living in the interior.

"We visited Kampung Pagalungan, Pensiangan in 2015, Kampung Pun Batu, Sook in 2016, Kampung Magandai, Kota Marudu in 2017 and Kampung Gusi, Ranau in 2019 but had to stop the program due to the Covid-19 pandemic," he said, adding that in 2018 this program was modified by carrying out cross-border activities and entering the state of Sarawak.

Kassim pointed out that although it is a CSR program, the Rentas Borneo also provides an opportunity to apply the concept of 'service learning' to enable lecturers, administrative staff and UMS students to practice the theories and ideas obtained in the lecture room and translate them into services that directly benefit the community.

Through the organization of this program, UMS can also spread the importance



Dr Kassim flagging off the expedition.

of education in general, and higher education in particular, by using UMS as a symbol for higher education in Sabah to rural communities that have limited contact with the outside community," he said. Kassim who is also taking part

in the expedition, added that during the program, several services and knowledge transfer projects will be carried out for the benefit of villagers such as health check-ups, dental and medical treatment, lectures and workshops related to solar

energy technology, information technology (ICT), clean water technology, fish farming, agricultural technology, exposure to the diversity of arts and culture in Malaysia, sports and recreation, as well as entrepreneurial aspects

involving industries such as homestays and food and beverages.

At the same time, the community will be given exposure to developments in the world of education and its impact on their well-being, considering this village is far inland and isolated from the outside community.

The program supports the Malaysian Education Development Plan 2015-2025 (Higher Education) which focuses on the 'Transformation of Higher Education Delivery,' he said, adding that one of UMS' main focuses is creating a strong network between the public university and the community.

Thus, this program will create a strong and close relationship with the rural communities in Sabah so that the current development in education can be seen, felt and permeated to all corners of the community," he said.