

DAILY EXPRESS NEWS

UMS campaign hopes to collect 1,000 pints of blood

05 July, 2003

Kota Kinabalu: Organisers of the inaugural Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Caring Campus Campaign, launched on Tuesday, hope to have collected 1,000 pints of blood from the public by today (Saturday).

Organising Chairman Soffian Osman said the aim of the campaign was to assist the government hospital in tackling the blood shortage problem, besides helping the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (PBSMM) Sabah Branch in its activity to collect old clothes.

He said the campaign covers five activities - blood donation, collection of used clothing, anti-dadah awareness, HIV/AIDS awareness and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

The organisers were made up of the UMS Student Affairs Department, University Students Association and University Students Welfare Committee with the co-operation of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and PBSMM Sabah Branch.

Launching the campaign at the university's Dewan Kuliah Perdana, UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Mohd Noh Dalimin said Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman in Kuala Lumpur was able to collect as much as 3,500 pints of blood in one day.

"This campaign, aimed at bringing the UMS family closer to the local community, will help create a young generation of university students who are concerned about current issues relating to society and the nation," he said.

He emphasised the need to raise awareness among the community on the importance of donating blood and possible danger if the supply at government hospitals is drastically reduced.

QEH Chief Pathologist Dr Jessie Hiu, who represented the Hospital Director, said the hospital uses up between 15,000 and 18,000 pints of blood a year, and the quantum appears to be increasing each year.

Thirty to 40 per cent of the blood received is used by Thalassaemia patients, according to her.

Meanwhile, PBSMM Sabah Branch Director Steven Y.S. Lim disclosed that Sabah topped the list of highest blood collection with a total of 453 pints at the nationwide blood donation campaign held on June 15 this year.

"Throughout last year, the Branch succeeded in collecting 1,126 pints from the public. In the same period, we also extended the necessary assistance in nine fire incidents involving 1,979 victims.

"Apart from the more than 300 sacks of used clothes distributed (in addition to foodstuff and blankets), we provided similar aid (old clothing) to 54 needy families in the rural areas last year," he said.

Lim expressed the hope that other institutions of higher learning in the State will take the cue from the UMS programme.