



The six undergraduates of UMS who are going for internship in Marine Science and Aquaculture in Philippines.

State Govt to continue helping students: Lajim

By LARRY RALON

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government will continue with its obligation to help local students pursue their tertiary education to the highest level, in line with the National Education Policy.

Assuring this here, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Lajim Haji Ukin said the State Government has never failed to provide financial assistance, through scholarships, to students who have achieved educational excellence.

"The Government has been active in fostering good cooperation with various institutions from outside the State, including those from the industrial sector," he said.

Such a good rapport was vital in providing more opportunities for the students to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills, he added.

Lajim also commended the willingness of various corporates and non-governmental organisations to come forward to provide financial assistance to those students.

"Hopefully, their generosity would be emulated by others," he said while addressing the Gala cum Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI), of University Malaysia Sabah (UMS), at Promenade Hotel here, on Saturday.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Professor Abu Hassan Othman and BMRI Director Professor Ridzwan Abdul Rahman were also present at the function to celebrate with undergraduates who will be completing their studies and going

abroad for their respective internship.

Lajim, who is also the Tun Fuad Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman, later presented the foundation's scholarships to six Sabahans undergraduates who are currently studying in their first year at BMRI.

Three of the recipients were in the BMRI aquaculture programme, while the rest in the marine science programme.

Lajim, who is the Minister in the Chief Minister's Department, said the State Government highly appreciated all the efforts by UMS to produce more knowledgeable and committed graduates for the country.

"This would definitely assist the Government in achieving all its development agenda not only in the State, the nation as a whole," he said.

According to Lajim, Sabah had a very high variety of marine biodiversity which has a great potential to be developed.

"Without good management and rehabilitation, these natural treasures of ours will diminish and vanish due to over and uncontrolled exploitation. In order to avoid this, we would need more skilled manpower in the related fields.

"The highly knowledgeable and skilled local manpower is also important in the implementation of the latest and modern technology available out there," said Lajim, adding that it was therefore important for the local institutions of higher learning to continue promoting good relations with other institutions and agencies, locally and internationally.