

UMS partners IKMa to advance Sabah's cooperative movement

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has signed a strategic partnership with Institut Koperasi Malaysia (IKMa), an agency under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives to be a leader in advancing the cooperative movement in the state.

Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick said that the exchange of a Letter of Intent between the two institutions marked the beginning of efforts involving knowledge transfer, research and expertise exchange.

"This partnership enables UMS students from the fields of business, economics and accounting to undergo industrial training at IKMa, while IKMa officers have the opportunity to be involved in research or projects at UMS," he said when officiating the closing ceremony of the Protege Kuskop Borneo Zone Carnival (Sabah) 2024 here on Sunday.

Ewon said that the Borneo Zone (Sabah) Carnival is the final in a series of six held nationwide.

He said the carnival serves as a primary platform for introducing and mainstreaming the entrepreneurship programs



Ewon with participants of Bank Rakyat entrepreneurship seminar towards empowering graduates.

carried out by the ministry under the Protege initiative.

"Thanks to UMS for collaborating with the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry to make this two-day carnival a success.

In reality, the number of graduates from higher learning institutions continues to grow each year.

"Referring to the 2021 to 2023 graduate statistics released by the Ministry of Higher Education, an average of 247,000 graduates are produced each year," he said.

Ewon urged all graduates and students present at the event to shift their mindset from job-seekers to job creators by

becoming entrepreneurs.

He added that entrepreneurship is a proven way to develop local socioeconomic conditions.

"It not only helps to increase individual income but also creates more job opportunities for the surrounding community.

The government, through the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry, is deeply committed to developing the entrepreneurial sector in Malaysia, especially in supporting graduates and students to enter this field.

"We want to see Malaysian students and graduates successfully face all the

challenges in the field of entrepreneurship and become leaders who can raise Malaysia's profile on the global stage," he said.

Ewon said that to ensure Malaysian students and graduates are in the entrepreneurial sector, the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry through Protege is implementing various entrepreneurship programs involving students and graduates for 2024.

"To date, a total of 60,649 students and graduates have participated in various Protege entrepreneurship programs under the 12th Malaysia Plan," he said.