

UMS carrying out researches on Blue Economy and Maritime Security

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has been carrying out researches on Blue Economy and Maritime Security on Sabah, said its vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.

"Sabah is surrounded by the vast sea which possesses richness that needs to be explored and must be value added to the economy and this will be a huge contribution to the economic source of Sabah. And in terms of maritime security, we are surrounded by the South China Sea, on the north Sulu Sea

and on the south, Celebes sea," he said.

"Hence we are exposed to various threats such as smuggling and kidnapping and other threats such as extortions and so on carried out by irresponsible people in the east coast of Sabah and likewise on Sabah's west coast, we often hear about our sea being encroached by foreign fishermen who steal our sea resources. So of course, a lot of research must be done," he said to the media after launching the UMS Blue Economy and Maritime Security Research

Centre at Pantai ODEC, UMS on Friday.

He added that the massive data collected by the researches could justify why certain policies are necessary for the government and implementing agencies.

"This is the role of the centre," he said.

At the same time, the centre also strives to enrich available educational resources and knowledge and inculcate the importance of protecting Sabah's Blue Economy and Maritime Security for her future generations. Kasim also

reminded that Sabah is rich in resources both at land and at sea.

"And they are yet to be explored," he said.

Kasim also commented that UMS has carried out a lot of marine type researches, and these included the creation of high value hybrid fish, the restoration of coral reefs and so on.

He also said that currently, UMS is involved in a roundtable discussion with Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCom) and it has carried out a lot of writings on issues related to security.