

UMS and UM expand collaboration on poverty study in Sabah

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Malaya (UM) Thursday signed a letter of intent (LOI) to expand their collaboration in the study on poverty in Sabah and Labuan.

The letter was signed by the UMS Dean Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSK) Prof Dr Asmady Idris and Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies (UAC) director Prof Dr

Suhaiza Hanim Mohamad Zailani. The LOI signing ceremony was witnessed by UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor and UAC UM adviser Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

Speaking at the event, Kasim said the LOI not only benefits UMS and UM researchers but also expands the networking between institutions of higher education, development agencies and the private sector in Sabah as well as

at the national level.

"I believe and hope this collaboration will be more vibrant after the inking of the LOI between UAC UM and FSSK UMS. Close cooperation between agencies and strategic partners is not only needed but is also the foundation for success for the planned programmes, opening opportunities for more significant achievements and competitiveness," he said.

He said this at the signing ceremony of the LOI and the Hardcore Poverty Eradication (BMT) Benchmark Programme carried out by UMS researchers for Sabah and Labuan here today.

The BMT programme visit was attended by a delegation headed by UAC, UM as well as representatives from the Federal Territories Department, Agrobank Centre of Excellence (ACE) and Yayasan Sime Darby.

Kasim said such visits played a crucial role in creating a significant impact for both parties.

"During this visit, the research head of the Hardcore Poverty Eradication Facilitation Grant (2022-2025), Assoc Prof Dr Jalihah Md Shah from FSSK and the entire UMS researchers involved in this grant will share their experience with fellow researchers from UAC UM regarding poverty findings in

Sabah and Labuan," he said.

He said the delegation's presence reflected its objectives and commitment to tackling the issue of poverty in Malaysia.

"We cannot work in silo when it comes to research and we need strategic cooperation to unravel the problems of disparity and poverty that occur in society due to uncertainties at the global and national levels," he said. — Bernama