

UMS empowers rural students through motivation programme in Tawau

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TAWAU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to strengthen its mission as a leading institution for inclusive education with the successful implementation of the Program Lonjakan Motivasi Pendidikan Luar Bandar (PRO MUDA) at SMK Wallace Bay here recently.

Over three days, the spirit of campus life merged with the enthusiasm of rural students with active participation from various UMS departments and units including the UMS Alumni Centre, the Rural Education Research Unit under the Faculty of Psychology and Education (FPPS), as well as Kingfisher and Usia 1B Residential Colleges, all working together to boost the confidence, motivation and potential of rural students in Sabah. Senior lecturer at FPPS and Rural Education Research Fellow, Dr Frederick Josue @ Mohd Fadhil Abdullah, described PRO MUDA

as a true reflection of UMS's social responsibility.

"PRO MUDA is tangible proof of UMS's commitment to its social responsibility as a university. It is more than just a motivational programme, it is a movement of awareness that brings hope, knowledge, and inspiration directly to the doors of rural schools," he said.

Jointly organised with the Tawau District Education Office (PPD Tawau), the programme featured a series of engaging and interactive activities such as STEM and science workshops based on real-world experiences, Inspirational sharing sessions by UMS alumni, mentor-mentee sessions with university students, and local cultural and exploration activities.

The involvement of UMS alumni as facilitators added a meaningful dimension to the event, giving students first-hand insight into campus life and higher education

opportunities after SPM, showing that coming from a rural background is not a barrier to success.

"This programme demonstrates that UMS is not merely an ivory tower, but a strategic community partner for rural development in shaping competitive human capital," Dr Frederick added.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), PRO MUDA serves as a platform to empower rural students to dream big and pursue their aspirations with courage. Following its successful implementation in Tawau, UMS plans to expand the PRO MUDA initiative across Sabah, bringing the light of knowledge to every corner of the state, reinforcing the belief that education is not a privilege, but a right and the bridge to a better future for all.