

Vital for all to know importance of forests

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By JENNE LAJION

KOTA KINABALU: It is important for everyone to understand the importance of looking after the forests.

The forests play an important role in sustaining the lives of all living creatures on the earth.

"It supplies us with water, oxygen, food as well as wood for the construction of our buildings,"

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) deputy vice chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Dr Kamaruzaman Haji Ampon said at the launch of the World Forestry Day at UMS yesterday.

"Without the forests everywhere on this earth would surely perish," he added.

Dr Kamaruzaman also said education was vital to ensure the success of the state government's sustainable forest management endeavours.

"Although agencies and institutes such as UMS and government bodies are doing all they could to sustain the forests, the efforts are not



Dr Kamaruzaman

enough.

"Education on the importance of sustainable forest management is a must," he said.

Meanwhile, he also said the industries in Sabah must be more environmentally friendly and eco-system based.

And in another development, State Forestry director,

very commendable.

It also urged the government to be very stringent in vetting all travel or identification documents held by foreigners, as many are believed to be fake.

"A lot of foreigners are now in possession of the MyKad and this all stemmed from them holding fake documents previously which they managed to pass off as genuine," the statement added.

It said that in Keningau, many IMM13 holders were also in possession of the MyKad and the government must take action to stop foreigners from becoming citizens.

Sam Mannan said more than 50 UMS students have gone through attachment programmes with his department.

"We will continue to help educate the people and especially youngsters on the importance of sustainable forest management," he said in his speech read by the department's public relations officer, Masniah Othman.