



NICE CRAFTMANSHIP... Marcus taking a close look at one of the

NST 29.05.2006 P. 4 basket weaved by the participants

# Seabed gradually damaged by unhealthy fishing methods

By JENNE LAJIUN

**PUTATAN:** The seabed along the Putatan shores used to be rich with sea lives such as prawns, crabs and various types of fishes more than 20 years ago.

However, that scenario has changed over the years due to the use of unhealthy fishing methods such as fish bombing.

Putatan Member of Parliament, Datuk Dr Marcus Mojigoh said that having grown up in the district, he could see the dwindling catch of local fishermen fishing at the sea located near to Putatan.

"The seabed used to be laden with corals but no more," he said at the closing ceremony of the 'Handicraft and Handicrafts Training' held at Kampung Duvanson recently.

Thus, he has asked the Universiti Malaysia Sabah through the Marine Institute to conduct coral replanting activities in Putatan.

"If we could reactivate the coral reefs in Putatan, we would be able to once again see various sea products there," he said.

Unfortunately, such an activity requires huge allocation, he said.

At the same time, he said, the people must also be educated on using only fishing methods that would not affect the growth of the corals, if

they are planted.

"After all, it would be a waste to have them planted only to be destroyed by the people through their actions," he said.

In his speech, Marcus also urged the local people to conduct business activities which they could later pass on to their children.

"Don't think so much of acquiring a job at the office or government positions because at the end of the day, these positions would not be passed on to your children but to other people," he said.

However, if one were to go into business such as rubber planting, food preparations and so on, he said, the person could train his or her children to do the job so that later, they would not be unemployed and could carry on the business.

"It is time for us to focus on such activities. It is time for us to acquire skills from the various government agencies who are working hard to develop the locals so that they can become independent, both personally and professionally," he said.

Meanwhile, a total of 16 women comprising of housewives and single mothers participated in the one week training held at Kampung Duvanson.

During the length of the course, the women learnt how to weave basket as well as to prepare local cakes.