

UMS holds Children's Literature Day programme

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continues to nurture children's interest and talents in literature through the organisation of poetry recitation, storytelling and singing competitions under its Early Childhood Education Programme (PAKK) at the Faculty of Psychology and Education (FPPS).

The Children's Literature Day programme recently drew the participation of about 30 children aged between five and six from around Kota Kinabalu, Kota Belud and Kota Marudu.

PAKK UMS programme head Dr Mohd Zafaren Zakaria, who officiated at the event, said early exposure to literature plays a vital role in supporting children's academic development while preserving cultural heritage and national identity.

"Through the competitions organised, children are not only nurtured in language and communication skills, but are also trained to be confident in appearing before an audience, build self-assurance and appreciate cultural and literary values.

The participants demonstrated encouraging levels of confidence, donning creative and attractive costumes throughout the competitions.

"Strong parental support also contributed significantly to the success of this programme, creating a positive and conducive learning environment," he said.

He added that feedback from parents had been very positive, with many expressing pride in their children's courage and improved self-confidence as a result of participating in the programme.

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Literature Day programme advisor Dr Jupri Bacotang said the event also provided significant added value to PAKK UMS students involved as facilitators and organisers.

"Student involvement in this programme allows them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-life situations, particularly through direct interaction with children and the wider community.

"It serves as an important platform for developing leadership, communication, time management and teamwork skills," he explained.

Programme director Sharifah Nurhakimah Ilasam expressed appreciation for the support extended by all parties in ensuring the success of the programme, especially students from the PAKK programme.

"We are deeply grateful for the trust shown by parents, as well as the continuous support from fellow students, lecturers and sponsors who worked together to make this programme a success.

"We also appreciate the support of strategic partners such as UMSFLEC, Iztanburg, Page Eight, Rosemary, Aeon Fantasy Kidzoon, Inomax, Kelab Belia Dinamik, the PIBG of TABIKA KEMAS PPR Taman Korongkom Jaya B, and other parties who were directly or indirectly involved," she said.

The organisation of the Children's Literature Day programme reflects UMS' ongoing commitment to supporting the holistic development of children, strengthening the lifelong learning agenda, and empowering higher education institutions to play a meaningful role in producing quality, competitive and community-oriented graduates and educators.