

UMS' statement on tourist guides unfair: Association

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KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Tourist Guides Association (STGA) said it was an unfair statement by Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) Head of Tourism Management Programme, Roseni Ariffin to say that tourist guides need to improve during a tourism event held at their campus.

STGA Chairman, Daniel Doughty said: "Not just tourist guides need to improve. Tourism lecturers in UMS also need to improve. We must acknowledge that whoever completed the tourist guide course will not come out being the best."

He added that it is because of tourist guides that tourism in Sabah and in Malaysia is as vibrant as it is today.

"There been numerous times that Sabahans win the best tourist guide awards and known to be the most hospitable, knowledgeable and professional.

" We must not forget that almost all of the exciting eco tourism related products and services is in Sabah and as such the State has the most guides in the country specialising in various fields and topics. I wish to remind Roseni that Sabah is not so much of a shopping destination."

He said since the early days of tourism in Sabah, almost all of the exciting tourism products are designed by tourist guides.

" We too acknowledge that foreign language speaking guides is part of those challenges and demand needed in this industry. We need to find the right and better solution to this issue than just sending our members to a language class here.

Doughty said, STGA members are excited to work closely with University Malaysia Sabah and are confident that together, they could solve the shortage of foreign language speaking tourist guides in Sabah.