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UMS boosts disaster resilience through emergency training exercise

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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KOTA KINABALU: The Natural Disaster Research Centre of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (NRDC UMS) recently spearheaded the implementation of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Programme in the Federal Territory of Labuan.

The programme brought together strategic collaboration among various government agencies, higher education institutions, security forces and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in a comprehensive effort to empower communities.

The CBDRM approach emphasises the role of communities as the front line in disaster management, supported by training, technical expertise and operational assistance from participating agencies.

Held at the Kampung Sungai Lada Community Hall, the



Simsudin (eighth left) performs the programme's officiating gimmick.

activity was officiated by Labuan Corporation deputy chairman Simsudin Sidek.

He said Labuan Corporation continues to support initiatives based on strategic collaboration that directly benefit local communities.

"This includes strengthening the role of the District Disaster Management Committee (JPBD) as a local action platform, providing support for community-based programmes and expanding networks with various agencies and strategic partners.

"Strong collaboration between agencies, academia and NGOs is key to successfully empowering communities.

"This programme is expected to serve as an effective CBDRM model and continuously strengthen community preparedness in Labuan and surrounding areas," Simsudin said.

He also urged local communities to make full use of the knowledge and exposure gained as preparation for future emergencies.

Meanwhile, NDRC UMS director Associate Professor Dr Carolyn M. Payus said the programme has been implemented since 2015 as part of the centre's core role.

"The programme aims to empower communities that are most familiar with their surroundings to be better prepared in the event of disasters.

"This implementation also expands cross-regional and cross-sector collaboration involving the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) under the Prime Minister's Department, Labuan Corporation through JPBD, security agencies,

academic institutions and NGOs.

"The CBDRM programme focuses on enhancing knowledge, skills and preparedness through multi-agency collaboration to build resilient communities.

"NDRC UMS plays a leading role in education, training and knowledge transfer related to disaster risk reduction (DRR)," she said.

The programme included briefings on agency roles, tsunami and earthquake risks, as well as emergency simulation exercises.

Participants also underwent disaster risk mapping exercises, operational action planning and first aid training to further strengthen community capabilities.

Nadma deputy director-general (Post-Disaster) Datuk Hussain Moh said the initiative helps enhance awareness and community capacity in facing disaster risks.

"This initiative is in line with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and the Sendai Framework 2015-2030 in boosting community resilience," he said.

Also present were Labuan Corporation deputy chief executive officer Fadzilah Mahmud; UMS Labuan International Campus director Professor Ts. Dr Shamsul Bahari Shamsudin; Labuan Air Base commander Brigadier General Hamidi Hashim; and Internal Security and Public Order Division chief of Labuan IPD ASP Vernon Sinclair Dalton Doel.



Bomba personnel conduct CPR techniques during the CBDRM activity.



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SUMMARIES

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