

# Strong 'wage earner' mentality behind high jobless grads



Ramraini

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DE 30.05.2012 4

KOTA KINABALU: Thousands of youths and graduates remain jobless, no thanks to a strong "wage earner" mentality.

In stating this, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Entrepreneur Development and Research Unit head, Ramraini Ali Hassan, said they lacked exposure and were not keen on business and entrepreneurship.

Towards this end, she said the number of jobless graduates stood at 63,000 or 3.2 per cent in 2009.

She said the Statistics Department reported that between 2001 and 2009 the unemployment rate had increased 62 per cent.

However, she said, following the introduction of the New Economic Model by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the Government is currently restructuring its strategy to spur the creation of new entrepreneurs and support the existing ones.

"Under the new model, the Strategic Renewal Initiative aims to create more intellectual human resource with entrepreneurial values, thus become the catalyst of the National Economic Transformation, as the nation is vying for a high-income economy," she said during the UMS Graduate Career and Entrepreneurial Seminar 2012, Tuesday.

She said based on the study, graduates are seen to have the potential to narrow the widening household income gap between the rich and the poor.

"In general, entrepreneurial development programmes among graduates have already begun for some time with the aim to expose them to the theoretical and practical aspects," she said.

Meanwhile, in regards to the seminar, Ramraini said, it

aimed to attract more graduates to venture into the fields of business and commerce and subsequently reduce the number of jobless among them.

"This seminar is planned so that it could open the minds and encourage more graduates and youths to make business as their career choice," he said.

UMS students were also presented with three topics, namely, Strengthening the Business Interest, Career and Business Opportunities in KFC and Ayamas and Cash mechanics.

Invited presenters included from Takaful Ikhlas Group Agency Manager, Samian Senin, Sinar Mustika Manager, Abd Mukti Syaubari, QSR Brands Bhd Syariah and Halal Department General Manager, Mohd Roslan Mohd Saludin, and Mekanik Wang.com founder, Abuayubul Ansari.

Presenter, Abuayubul, from Singapore even managed get the crowd of more than 200 students motivated with his witty presentation on PhD Entrepreneurship.

In his presentation, Abuayubul said his 15-year-old son aims to make his first S\$1 million by the age of 17.

Expressing confidence that the boy is on track, he said because of the tough love he showed his son from the time he was nine his son has successfully started a motivational greeting cards business.

Abuayubul said he started his son with S\$1,000 to start his business and helped him with the business planning.

"I gave him the loan and went to Johor Baru to print about 5,000 copies of the card which, I got his aunt to help design. In just a month he paid all his debts and by year-end made S\$4,000 in excess," he said.

He said following that the business won his son a children's entrepreneurial award from the US.