

# Using natural resources for energy

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Students In Free Enterprise of Universiti Malaysia Sabah team **preparing a biodigester tank in Kampung Maridi, Ulu Sugut, Ranau**, as part of their Bio Energy project phase.

**KOTA KINABALU:** When night falls, villagers of Kampung Maridi are sometimes forced to live in the dark due to inadequate power supply.

The remote village in Ulu Sugut, Ranau, 175km from here and a three-hour drive from Ranau township, is home to more than 100 Sungai and Dusun families.

Many of the villagers are farmers who cultivate rubber, oil palm and padi. There are primary and secondary schools as well as a clinic in the village.

In a statement released by Students In Free Enterprise, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (SIFE UMS), it had discovered that 115 families had been suffering as their daily work was hampered by power shortage.

However, this was about to change as a SIFE UMS team had recently introduced a Bio Energy project

using cattle manure to help solve the dilemma faced by the Kampung Maridi community.

“The number of cattle and amount of cow dung in the village had encouraged the team to find a solution to the existing problem through natural resources.

“This energy resource will help to generate power so the people will have their lights and can cook,” the statement said, adding that the Ulu Sugut Bio Energy project was carried out in March.

In April, the team built a personal biodegester plant in a villager’s house compound for the first phase of the project.

The state Veterinary Services and Animal Industry Department, a government institution that pioneered biogas projects in Sabah, also extended its cooperation.