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UMS launches Botanical Garden



Kamaruzaman (seated, 4th from left) listening intently to the School of International Tropical Forestry Dean, Dr Mahmud Sudin at the launch of the Botanical Park at UMS.

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday launched its Botanical Garden.

The six-hectare garden set near UMS' School of International Tropical Forestry will be teemed with trees and plants endemic to the island of Borneo and in Sabah, said the university's vice chancel-

lor, Professor Datuk Seri Dr Kamaruzaman Haji Ampon yesterday.

According to him, the garden will serve as yet another green lung for the city within the next couple of years.

He added that the School of International Tropical Forestry has been entrusted to develop the garden with

the assistance of all staffs of the university.

Kamaruzaman said that presently, the most common tree species found at the university are the acacia trees.

"We want to reduce the domination of these trees in UMS and replace it with commercial trees from the Dipterocarpaceae family

such as the Seraya (Meranti), Belian and Urat, as well as local fruit trees such as the durian, manggis, rambutan and so on," he said.

He said that they will try not to utilize the allocation from the University to undertake the project.

"We will ask everyone in the university to come and help with the project so that they can contribute. We want the garden to create a sense of belonging for everyone involved," he said.

To ensure the continuity of the project, UMS has already put in place its landscaping policy, he said.

Aside from serving as a green lung for the city, the Botanical Garden will also serve as a center for education for students specializing in botany, ecology, ethnobotany, fauna biology and flora, including microflora such as fungi and microbes, he said. — Jenne Lajjun, jenne@newsabah-times.com.my