

UMS team making positive impacts on lives of islanders

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KOTA KINABALU: The Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team is making positive impacts on the lives of folks residing in Pulau Mantanani.

According to SIFE participant Deidre Eligius Samuel, the positive changes can be seen in three aspects – in the lives of womenfolk, the young children and the overall ambience of the island which was once riddled with plastic waste problem but is now being slowly transformed into a paradise island.

The effort made by the SIFE UMS team was to encourage

and teach 23 womenfolk on the island to embark in a business venture whereby they create and sell eco purses made of waste plastic materials that the children found on the shores of the island beach.

“They are now able to earn RM4,600 a month from selling the eco purse, which is quite a success,” she said.

The spill over benefits could also be seen on the attitudes of children who collect the plastic waste to a collection centre which has been established on the island, she said.

“The children are very excited because they know they will be rewarded when they bring in

the plastic waste to the centre,” she said.

And lastly, the island, which sports clean and crystal clear water, is becoming a tourism destination as plastic waste becomes less.

In addition to the benefits above, the students from the university have also played an important part in improving the status of education among the children from the island.

Prior to the arrival of the students on the island, the passing rate of students in the Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) was zero percent, but this passing rate has risen steadily to 30 percent.



SIFE UMS members teaching the residents of Pulau Mantanani how to make eco purse.