



The postgraduates and teachers of prison's School of Integrity having a group photo with (fifth from right) Abdul Halim and (sixth from right) Suyansah.

UMS postgrads win praise for educating 16 juveniles

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KOTA KINABLU: Praises went to 38 postgraduates of University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) who committed their weekend to educating a total of 16 juveniles in the Kota Kinabalu Integrity School in an 'Information Technology Motivational Workshop' which ended Sunday.

"This programme was held for the first time with the objective of providing community services to prisoners, particularly offenders below 21 years old," said UMS Academic and Student Affairs Deputy Dean, Dr Suyansah Swanto.

He said this during the closing ceremony of the two-day workshop, which was organised by postgraduates of the UMS' Education and Social Development School, in collaboration with the Kota Kinabalu Central Prison, here, Sunday.

"This is so that they may have exposure to the actual education environment outside the prison walls which will enable

them to adapt to the world by the time they are released," he added.

"We hope to educate them on a better way of life through the programme as well as to expose them to the latest ICT so that when they are released from prison they will not be left behind," he said.

He said programmes such as this are important in realising the nation's aim to have an intellectual community with high virtues.

To the juveniles, he said, difference in status is not an obstacle to becoming successful one day and even though now they are in this place, they are special and have a potential which has yet to be polished or are not aware of yet.

"Take what you have learned here and use it to contribute to the community and, hopefully, you can go further in life," he said.

Meanwhile, Kota Kinabalu Central Prison Director, Abdul Halim Ma-Hasan, hoped the programme would be extended to the rest of 1,928 prisoners.

He thanked UMS, particularly those who spent their weekend to support the programme and to give the juveniles a new start and a chance to adapt to the real world with the skills they have learnt.

"Juveniles have to be aware that their options in life are limited if they do not get education, thus, they should take advantage of the opportunities they do not value while they are free," he said.