



Abdullah (squatting down) placing a mango tree into the newly dug hole at the school compound yesterday.

UMS adopts former school of its registrar

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) registrar Datuk Abdullah Haji Mohd Said can still remember the days when he had to trudge along the paddy fields just to get to school.

"In those days, the paddy was taller than me - those were sweet, sweet days which I am fond of. This was the school which I went to for knowledge. As a matter of fact, this was the only school that was available during my time and children from as far as Kampung Ketiau and Petagas came here to study," he said at the UMS Registrar Department Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme which was held

at the school yesterday.

Hence, it wasn't a surprise when he choked in between words, trying to hold back his tears as he spoke fondly of his former school.

"SK Buit Hill is a significant school for me. I began my schooling years here. And I feel proud to be able to give back to the school which has provided me with the lessons that helped mould me into the person I am today," he said.

Abdullah is the only Sabahan in the country to hold the position as a registrar of a higher learning public university in the country.

He added that many key leaders in the State began their education at the school, and they included Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin.

On the CSR programme yesterday, Abdullah mentioned that his department was adopting the school.

He also invited the students from the school to tour UMS as a means to encourage them to excel in their studies.

During the event yesterday, his department also presented books to the school library to help nurture the love of reading among students and teachers alike.