

UMS organises Campus in the Village programme

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KENINGAU: The Co-curriculum and Student Development Centre of University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) through the Community Institution Interaction Program (Interim) recently held a Campus in the Village at Kampung Tagai Apin-Apin, Keningau.

Forty-one members of the Interim Section 1 session 2012/2013 participated in the programme together with coach cum lecturer and programme advisor, Amer Azlan Abdul Jamal.

Programme director Khairul Azmi Mustafa said as the world had become increasingly challenging, exposure to these changes could be detrimental to the students who are unprepared. Therefore, the Interim hopes to develop a programme that focuses on strengthening the physical, emotional and mental aptitude of the students.

"All these three elements need to be balanced and strengthened," he told the Borneo Post at the closing ceremony of the three-day programme held in the village hall.

Khairul said the concept of this programme would be focused on the involvement of undergraduates in UMS as technocrats who could guide and influence teens on the benefits and effects of being successful in the world.

According to him, the programme also connects undergraduates in a social climate that will educate them to become holistic leaders in the future.

"The contents of the programme encompasses all aspects of



Amer Azlan Abdul Jamal

social, religious and academic and serve as a boost for the strengthening and advancement of the undergraduates as a very important human capital in the core of national development.

"The other objectives of the programme seek to improve the personality and soft skills of the UMS undergraduates to be proficient in many aspects and having a strong faith in themselves," he said.

Also, said Khairul, bringing the UMS undergraduates serves as an impetus to the youths being example of students who excel in all aspects and to foster good relations, tolerance and racial integration between UMS undergraduates and the village

community.

According to him, the programme was conducted for the entire community, including children in the village.

He said the first day of the programme saw the handing over of adopted children to the villagers as host family and as a way of 'breaking the ice'.

Khairul said on the second day, there were artistic exercises, UMS introductory session to the village community, the presentation of puzzle, picture chain, learning Dusun language with the community, learning other cultures, playing musical instruments, local traditional games and food, as well as games and a cultural night.

On the last day, he said the undergraduates were divided into groups for mutual cooperation (gotong royong) programme with the village community and followed with the closing ceremony.

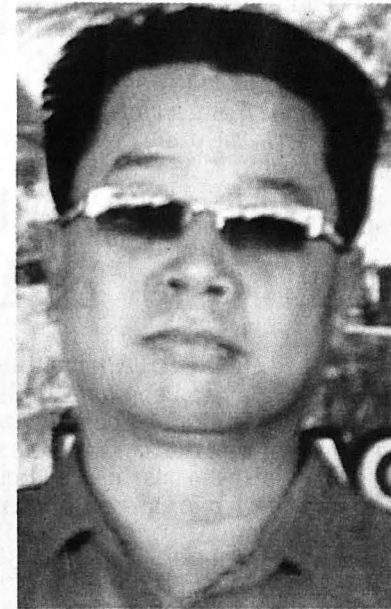
"Given the enormity of the impact the undergraduates made in contributing to the success of a university and the community at large, it is hoped that these programmes would be capable of forming a high sense of identity and a first-class human capital.

"Besides, the strong support by all parties made this programme so successful," he said.

Meanwhile in his speech at the closing ceremony of the programme, Amer Azlan described the programme as important for UMS undergraduates to interact and recognise the way of life and culture of the village



UMS Interim members and local community leaders in a group photo with their adopted families after the closing ceremony.



Harry Gitik

community.

"I want the undergraduates to expand their knowledge and experience not only in academics but in courtesy and cultural respect for older people as practised in Malaysian society today," he said.

Amer Azlan is confident that from the programme the villagers can get useful input other than asking the undergraduates to use their experiences with the village



Khairul Azmi Mustafa

community as a springboard.

In his closing speech, village head Kadisun Makuji, represented by executive secretary of the Keningau Barisan Nasional, Harry Gitik, expressed his sincere thanks for the programme being held for the first time in the village.

"I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the people of this village for giving full cooperation to the programme," he said.