

UMS outreach programmes to help develop rural education

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RANAU: Local communities have been urged to utilise the experience and knowledge shared in the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Outreach programmes that has given beneficial input towards the community's shift through education.

"I'm confident that UMS' effort in touring the rural areas to share the latest information and learning skills with the students and parents can motivate the locals to be advanced in education," said District Assistant Education Officer Fadzul Shemory when officiating the closing ceremony of the Karagasan Outreach Programme, on Thursday.

He said UMS' enthusiasm in developing rural education should be appreciated with the unlocking of potentials among rural students in various fields, especially in excelling in education and become agents of change for the local community.

The programme was organised by UMS' Rural Education Research Unit (UPPLB) with the cooperation of the District Edu-

cation Office and the Community Development Leader Unit.

Programme Director Lydia Kimsin said, the four-day programme involved 24 education postgraduates and more than 70 participants from around Kg Karagasan, which includes SK Karagasan pupils and local folk.

She said, the programme was aimed to expose the education postgraduates on planning and handling community-based projects.

At the same time, she said, the programme can motivate pupils to learn English, Science and Mathematics through the utilisation of modules prepared by the postgraduates.

"The handling of the programme was also helped by volunteers and Mara Skills Institute (IKM) officers also did a little sharing with the local youths on the opportunities offered in IKM," she said.

Meanwhile, programme coordinator who is also UMS UPPLB Head Dr Khalid Johari said, the annual programme gives priority to module building by the post-



The students and facilitators in a group photo during their visit to Kg Karagasan.

graduates which focusses on the pupil's academic activity's excellence.

Khalid said, fun students-based learning system should be used in preparing the learning modules. High level manipulative and thinking skills were fused in the building of science modules.

"The programme conducted by UPPLB has received good response and it is effec-

tive in transforming the education, especially in motivating youths and the local communities as well as explaining to them opportunities to further their studies," he said.

SK Kampung Karagasan is located 76km from Ranau township and the access road is unpaved and Dusun and Sun-gai make up the majority ethnic group in

the village. Among the activities held in the programme were dance and singing performances that showcased the participants' talent as well as recreational activities.

Also present were Education and Psychology Faculty Den Prof Dr Ismail Ibrahim and Kundasang Community Development Supervisor Japili Sami.