



Boniface (second right) and Ezra (right) receiving the award.

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## Kampung Sayap receives UMS award

KOTA KINABALU: Kampung Sayap, at the foothill of Mount Kinabalu, Kundasang, recently received a High Impact Community – University Involvement Award from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The award was received by Boniface @ Doni Jiran, a resident in the village and teacher of SK Sayap, for the efforts made by him and his fellow villagers to promote their village as a tourism destination to the world.

The Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Faculty of Business, Economics and Accounting senior lecturer Tini Maizura Mohhtar said the village was chosen as recipient for the award not only because of its community economic development but also the education development of the children there.

She said the UMS and Kampung Sayap community have been involved in various activities including enhancing the knowledge of homestay operators there through several modules which had been conducted like food safety handling, menu arrangement, table setting, and creation of signature dish.

“Apart from that, we also helped to further improve the use of English among the homestay operators, malim gunung (mountain guides) and schoolchildren there,” she said.

She said UMS has also played a role in the environmental preservation effort by encouraging the local poachers to join in as a malim gunung because of their jungle expertise.

Tini also hope that the UMS will continue committed to see the collaboration as a two-way collaboration and it will be continuous.

Meanwhile, Boniface said Kampung Sayap homestay, through the homestay association, has been receiving student tourists from the United Kingdom who

come especially from the month of June up to December annually.

He said the introduction of edutourism and the tourism awareness workshop which was conducted by the Kadamaian Tourism Association (Kata) has spurred the village’s tourism development.

Presently, he said, Kampung Sayap has 38 tourism products encompassing history, tour, nature walk, birdwatching, frogging, snakeing, caving, the upside down hut in the village, the Aura Montoria which has Minorol cave waterfall, canyon, Kowatuan with a 10-storey waterfall, Lituk Hiking Trail which is categorised as mountain trail hiking at 1,266 metres above sea level with four storey waterfall and Rafflesia flower.

Besides the Minangkob Homestay, there are also other lodgings like Porohon Garden which has a swimming pool, Amido Lodge, Botung-botung Tingkawan, Dokikip, Lombon Farm Stay, Taman Malapi and so on.

“The Sayap substation which is managed by the Sabah Parks is also one of the Kampung Sayap tourism products,” said Boniface, adding that the only challenge for them is the presently dirt road leading to their village which he believe, if this is sealed, will easily make the village as a popular destination in the world.

Kampung Sayap Tourism chairperson Ezra Sadok, meanwhile, pledged to make the village more known throughout the world with the help of Kata.

“We will ensure more youth in the village will be involved in every programme we are going to organise. Besides that, I hope there will be more such a joint effort, like that with UMS, with various other agencies and institutions to help in further economic and tourism development of the village and villagers,” said Ezra.