

UMS is first Satellite Campus in the country – boon for army vets

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KOTA KINABALU: More army veterans in the State are now able to gain additional knowledge and skills in various fields after Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in cooperation with the Armed Forces Veteran Affairs Corporation (Perhebat) became the first Satellite Campus in the country.

The university will be a one-stop centre that provides army veterans the opportunity to gain additional skills and knowledge through their Program Sosio Ekonomi Veteran (PPSEV) – initiated in 2016 – which offers various courses in fields such as aquaculture, cooking and entrepreneurship.

It also has potential to increase the skills of veterans with support from UMS expertise, in addition to being a platform for the development of quality and inclusive human capital among army personnel and veterans.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Musa Aman said the State government fully supports the programme as it creates opportunities for the veterans and soon-to-be pensioners to increase their skills as well as to generate income.

“I believe that the programme will allow them to be independent and able to compete in this increasingly challenging economic era. In addition, they are also able to grab the opportunity for self-improvement, which is in line with current needs and development.

“This will propel Malaysia towards the status of a developed country as we require a community that is ‘all-rounder’, educated and has a wide scope of knowl-



Musa, Kamarudin and Aziz at the MoU and MoA exchange ceremony.

edge in various fields,” he said this when launching the UMS-Perhebat Satellite Campus programme at UMS recital hall, Tuesday.

The UMS-Perhebat Satellite Campus is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) exchange between UMS and Perhebat, which is part of the Welfare Core and National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) to protect military virtues as well as improve the welfare of army personnel and veterans.

Earlier in his speech, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin said the PPSEV programme first started two years ago when Perhebat contacted the university with a suggestion to increase the skills of the army veterans’

community.

He said following this, Perhebat and UMS implemented a training programme for veterans and soon-to-be pensioners in 2017 by inviting UMS academics to present talks on various skills in fields such as aquaculture, food, cooking and entrepreneurship.

Kamarudin said around 40 participants took part in the PPSEV programme this year, which aims to expose the veterans to various fields that they can venture into.

“They were trained in fields such as basic aquaculture and marine fish farming. Aside from that, courses were also offered in the food, cooking and baking fields by our Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition (FSMP).

“Courses in the agricultural field and

entrepreneurship were also offered by our Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture (FPL) and Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy (FPEP),” he said.

Meanwhile, Perhebat chairperson Lieutenant General (rtd) Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Ibrahim said there are 400,000 retirees registered with Perhebat throughout the country. He said of the figure, only 130,000 are pensioners.

He said Perhebat has 15,000 alumni in Sabah, in which only one third or approximately 4,000 are pensioners.

“We are planning to expand the programme to Sarawak in cooperation with University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) to assist veterans in other areas. It is expected to commence sometime this month,” he added.