

# UMS students, ex-NS trainees do charity with blind society

By 16-12-13 A1

A GROUP of students from the School of Business and Economics, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) organized a charity event on November 9 in collaboration with the Sabah Society For The Blind (Pertubuhan Bagi Orang-Orang Buta Sabah), Tuaran and some former National Service trainees from Sabah.

The event was led by a faculty lecturer, Charlie Albert Lasuin.

Also at the event were Maraban Tungkil, a committee member and representative for the president of Sabah Society For The Blind and Madam Angeline A Gontusan, the executive secretary of the Sabah Society For The Blind.

Their mission was to create awareness to the society about the existence of this NGO which has the following objectives:

- To promote the corporate social responsibility among the university students and nurture their talents in terms of event management in public relations

- To build and strengthen the relationship between the students and the community involved.

Although the NGO was established in 1962, it still needs help to build up the soft skills of the disabled communities.

About 80% of the community members have soft skills in reflexology, planting and embroidery. They are very independent and willing to learn some skills to generate income for themselves and their families. During their free time, these communities enjoy playing table tennis with their friends in the village and singing together.

The society was set up in Tuaran by the North Borneo Red Cross Society and Jesselton Rotary Club.



UMS lecturer Charlie Albert Lasuin presenting souvenirs to Maraban Tungkil and Angeline A Gontusan.



The communities enjoy their time by playing table tennis with their friends.

It functions as a sheltered workshop to cater to the needs of the blind who have been trained in various specific fields while waiting to secure employment. It also provides temporary accommodation to deserving blind members and those in dire straits.

The first Sabah Society for the Blind was established on April 15, 1966, the Sandakan branch was established in 1972 when training activities were shifted to Sungai Manila in Sandakan and is now known as Taman Cahaya Training Centre for the Blind, Sandakan, whereas the Keningau branch was set up in 1997 and Tawau branch in 2001.

The Sabah Society for

the Blind plans to build a massage centre to attract tourists through travel agents, expand the mushroom industry and enhance the production of hand-made baskets.

Through this event, the UMS students can learn to take care of the blind, build and strengthen good relationship among UMS students with the blind, have a special time with them by chatting and entertaining them and learn about their mental strength.

The students hope that the blind can get equal treatment and opportunity by society. This event also helped to increase public awareness of blindness and empathy for those affected by it.





Maraban Tungkil giving his speech.



UMS lecturer Charlie Albert Lasuin presenting the hampers to the blind society members.

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UMS students visiting the Sabah Society For The Blind recently.

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UMS students with Charlie Albert Lasuin, Angeline A Gontusan and Maraban-Tungkil.

