



The UMS treasury department staff performing at the school.

## UMS holds community project

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**INANAM:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) held a Community Social Responsibility programme to raise awareness on financial planning among parents at SK Poring-Poring, here, Saturday.

Its treasurer, Rizal Othman, said the programme was not only to strengthen ties with the community but also to raise awareness on the functions and roles of the treasury department.

"In the past, we usually remained in the office but now, in line with the government's transformation programme, we have decided to play a part in doing community service," he said. He also said the department had previously planned to collaborate with private banks.

"We planned to have banks such as CIMB and MBSM to assist us in the programme and raise awareness on financial planning among the people," he said.

"Many people, especially those living in the interior, do not understand the roles of our department. They used to think that they would not be able to send their children to universities because of financial constraints. Therefore, our department decided to promote financial planning, especially for the sake of children's future," he said.

Headmaster of the school, Budhi Rahmad Suparno, thanked UMS for conducting the programme.

He said the school had also started the 'Tombului' programme two weeks ago by visiting the pupils' homes so as to enhance relations with the community.

"Tombului is a Dusun word which means visit. Pupils' Affairs Senior Assistant, class teachers and I visited

pupils from the bridge class checking their family background and assist them in their problems.

"We also launched the tuition class on Friday for Primary Six pupils. We have seven candidates who will be sitting for their UPSR examination this year. Last year, there were only three UPSR candidates and the passing percentage was 33.3 per cent," he said.

"The reason for the low passing percentage was the pupils' difficulties in coping with the Bahasa Malaysia writing paper as most of them speak Dusun with their parents back at home," he said.

Budhi also said the school has 12 teachers and two supporting officers.

According to him, the school had won the Education Ministry Quality Award in the year 2000.

"That was the year when the school reached its peak. Previously, there were 200 pupils but now we have only 48," he said.

Village head, Widdy Madaun, 57, said the people would gain a lot through the programme besides being able to strengthen ties.

Widdy who has nine children hoped more such programmes would be held in the future for the benefit of the school and pupils.

According to him, the pupils have to walk as far as four kilometres before reaching the school every day despite rain.

"We have pupils from nearby villages, for example, Kg Bambangan Baru, Kg Kolosunan Atas and Kg Poring-Poring. Most of them, including those in pre-school, have to walk by foot to school every day except during their first week to school in order for them to get used walking by themselves," he said.