

70 in UMS health, education convoy across State

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KOTA KINABALU: Some 70 Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) lecturers and students began their one-week convoy here, on Monday, to raise health and education awareness among youths across 21 locations in the State.

The convoy dubbed 'UMS Rentas Borneo', which involved a total of 21 four-wheel-drive vehicles, was organised by the School of Education and Social Development in collaboration with the School of Medicine.

It was the second time such event was held by UMS, this time in conjunction with its 20th Anniversary, where

The convoy will take participants across Beaufort, Sipitang, Tenom, Keningau, Nabawan, Sapulut, Kalabakan, Serudong, Tawau, Kunak, Lahad Datu, Tanjung Labian, Kinabatangan, Sandakan, Beluran, Paitan, Kanibongan, Pitas, Kota Marudu, Kota Belud and back to Kota Kinabalu on March 30.

Community Development and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Jainab Ahmad who officiated at the event, applauded the efforts which she described as a good way of increasing health and education awareness particularly to those in far-flung areas.

"Those in the city might know about the existence of UMS but many in the rural areas might not be aware of the education opportunity offered by the university, thus, convoy participants can act as a mentor to those they meet along the way," she said.

On another note, she said she has come across expired food with no proper display of expiry date being sold in grocery shops particularly during her visits to rural areas.

"Many of these food have already expired, yet are not taken off the counter, thus, it will lead to health



Jainab officiating the UMS Rentas Borneo in conjunction with UMS 20th Anniversary. Also seen is Dr. Ismail

problems for unknowing consumers who purchase these items and eventually fall sick due to food poisoning," she said.

"Thus, I hope students in this convoy, will also play their role of informing the people on the importance of the quality of food, how to see its contents and expiry date as part of preventing untoward health incidents," she said.

Towards this end, she said, such cooperation from every quarter, including students is important as it could reach a larger group.

Also present was the School of Education and Social Development Dean Prof. Dr. Ismail Ibrahim who represented UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah.

On another development, Jainab who is also Karambunai Assemblywoman proposed the closure of the stretch along Likas Bay, beginning from the roundabout at Likas Square to the roundabout near the City Mosque from 7am to 11am every Sunday.

Motorists could take the Jalan Tuaran Lama route to enter and exit the city during the four-hour closure.

The purpose, she said, was to provide more space for families, residents and visitors to conduct their recreational activities as well as part of reducing environment issues.

"Many people live in apartments and flats where there is limited space for recreational activities, thus, we will write a letter to City Hall about our proposal," she said.

"Based on the suggestions I received from the people, I think this is a good way of promoting and encouraging a healthy lifestyle where families may come here for picnic, go on cycling activities while at the same time reduce environment issues," she said.



Part of the four-wheel-drive vehicle in the UMS Rentas Borneo