

UMS mulls another run; this time for charity

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students, after setting a record in the Malaysia's Book of Records for running non-stop on treadmills for 11 days aspire to participate in another non-stop running event, this time, for charity.

Head of Sports Science Programme, Associate Professor Dr. Dg. Maryama Ag. Daud said the event would probably be held early 2015 and the funds received would be donated to various NGOs.

"We plan to have the same nine runners who successfully set a record in the Malaysia's Book of Records in the charity run.

"However, we are also considering adding a few more students to run in the upcoming programme," she said, adding that the event would be held at the UMS Sports Complex.

According to her, the idea came up in her discussions with another Sports Science Lecturer, Stephanie Chok in giving the inspiration to produce more competitive students within the university.

Besides that, Maryama said the purpose of the event was to show that contributions to charity could be done despite



Harun (left) handing a certificate of appreciation to one of the nine runners.

the lack of funds besides boosting the university's image.

Speaking of the runners for the upcoming event, she said that the funds, which are to be raised, would depend on the distance run by the runners.

"Runners will be able to collect RM1 for each kilometre they run," she added.

Maryama said this during the Appreciation Ceremony for the Successful Entry into the Malaysia Longest Distance Running on A Treadmill

By A Group at the UMS Chancellery Building here.

"I am satisfied with the success of these students as it was never an easy task. There were a lot of factors involved throughout the programme especially in terms of psychology and endurance," she said, adding that the programme had also received a lot of attention from various parties on Twitter and YouTube.

"However, we also received negative comments from people regarding the programme but their comments had actually encouraged us more in pushing ourselves beyond our limits," she explained.

The running programme was held earlier at the 1Borneo Hypermall from Jan 20 to 31 in marking the institution's 20th jubilee.

The programme was also believed to be a joint venture between the Sport Science Programme from the School of Education and Social Development and School of Medicine.

The runners, consisting of eight men and a woman, according to Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd Harun Abdullah, managed to break the previous records set by two well known universities which are UiTM Samarahan campus and Universiti Malaya (UM).

The nine UMS students successfully broke the record by taking turns in running 2,299.42 kilometres non-stop for 264 hours.

Harun, in his speech also expressed his pride in the students involved.

"To me, this achievement is very extraordinary. So far, there were many achievements we had achieved throughout the year 2013 and 2014 and I appreciate all the contributions made by our staff, students as well as parties concerned in boosting the university's image.

"I would also like to congratulate and thank all those who were involved in this programme for their efforts and working 24 hours round the clock," he said.