

UMS student volunteers reaches out to Kampung Brunei folk in Kimanis

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UMS organised its first ever off campus KOKUM at Kampung Brunei this year; Prof Harun is seen at left while Mohammad Alamin is seated centre left

By **MOHD IZHAM B HASHIM**
izham@newsabah-
times.com.my

KIMANIS: In the spirit of volunteerism, more than 200 students from University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) came together recently to serve society through a landmark initiative to uplift the Kampung Brunei community here.

During his keynote speech at the UMS Co-curriculum Carnival (KOKUM) on Sunday, Bongawan Assemblyman Mohammad Alamin said greater participation in community engagement programmes proved invaluable for students to develop a broader perspective and deeper insight into the real issues that affect society.

"Achieving academic excellence would amount to nothing if we cannot apply knowledge to actual practice," he said urging students to continue playing a proactive role in community out-

reach programmes during the course of their studies.

In conjunction with UMS' 20th Anniversary, the Student's Development & Co-curriculum Committee (PKPP) hosted a range of educational and outreach activities for the local Kimanis community.

UMS vice-chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah said the KOKUM initiative brings tertiary students closer to the greater community through various activities organised throughout the programme.

"Community outreach programmes such as KOKUM provide students with the platform to prove their potential and develop self discipline, leadership, ethics, critical thinking, teamwork and communication skills while coordinating high-impact activities for the local community," he added.

During his address, Prof Harun said SMK Bongawan 2 has been chosen under the UMS School

Adoption Programme, and added such outreach activities should be encouraged to ensure UMS students are not left out from contributing to society.

KOKUM 2014 generated much excitement particularly among the local community as they joined student volunteers in the festive atmosphere.

"This event is an exciting experience as it motivates university students to apply their knowledge to practice and contribute their skill, competencies and expertise to serve society," said UMS Malaysian Red Crescent (PBSM) student volunteer Nurshamiela Azmee, 22, from the Faculty of Tropical Forestry.

Throughout the three-week programme, almost one thousand UMS students participated in various sports, educational programmes with the local Kimanis community, including a family adoption programme which included 189 students and 44 families.