

## Universiti Malaysia Sabah can strengthen tourism development

By NOOR ZAFIRA SHAFIE

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is taking a step toward producing competent graduates especially in tourism and hospitality by collaborating with industries players.

Its vice chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin said it was another milestone in terms of collaboration between the university and industry.

"We want to achieve greater access through collaboration, partnership and community engagement as well as enhance our excel-

lence in research and publication.

"This is one of the ways of re-branding UMS and I believe UMS as a full-fledged higher institution in Sabah must play an important role to lead and be part of the team to strengthen tourism development," he said in his speech delivered by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Alumni and Student Affairs), Prof. Dr. Ismail Ali at the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UMS, Almacrest International College, Kadamaian Tourism Association and Kiulu Tourism Association

here yesterday.

Ismail represented UMS while Almacrest by its chief executive officer Stephanie Bathumalai, and chairman Walter Kandayan represented Kadamaian Tourism and Kiulu Tourism by its chairman Edmon Guntis.

The MoU also covers collaboration in the series of relevant training modules, research potential and publication as well as youth development and training for tourism operators in Kiulu dan Kota Belud (Kampung Melangkap Tiong, Kampung Klau & Kiulu).



WORKING TOGETHER ... (3rd right) Edmon, Ismail Assaffal, Stephanie and Walter.