

IDS seminar on Youth Unemployment

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KOTA KINABALU: The Institute for Development Studies (Sabah), in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), is organising a seminar, entitled "Youth Unemployment: Entrepreneurship as Valuable Alternative Source of Job Creation and Economic Dynamism for Youths in Sabah", on Sept 13.

The State Youth and Sports Minister has been invited to officiate the one-day event at a leading hotel.

In a statement Wednesday, IDS Chairman Tan Sri Simon Sipaun said the increase in the number of unemployed youths worldwide is a worrying trend.

"There are more than 358 million young people across the globe who are unemployed.

"The figure is greater than the population of the USA and Canada combined.

This represents loss of human capital that could contribute to economic growth and to overcoming poverty," he said.

Simon said Malaysia, in general, and Sabah, in particular, shared the same concern.

Moreover, various research findings strongly indicate that there is a strong need for employment opportunities, especially for young people.

"Thus, reduction in youth unemployment is always a key objective for government policy-makers. It requires actions across the public and private sectors to do two key things - create more jobs and give young people the skills and confidence to fill them.

"The goal of increasing employment in Sabah needs inclusive and robust economic growth and it is only achievable through collective action."

"Encouraging entrepreneurship among youth should always be the core to these efforts.

However, Simon added, allowing youths to start their own businesses is a great challenge, particularly to provide them with support and to create environment to turn their business ambitions into reality.

He said the various stakeholders such as policy-makers, academicians, research institutions and the private sector must be aware of what young people require in order to be effectively playing their role.