

UMS unemployability among highest – DCM

BP 7.6.2019 1

By Shalina R

KOTA KINABALU: Talks to increase the employability of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) graduates by really transforming them into job creators are ongoing between the university and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), revealed Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Wilfred Tangau.

Tangau, who is also Trade and Industry Minister, said the ministry and UMS had so far identified areas of collaboration and come up with two strategies to tackle the UMS employability rate, which is amongst the highest in Malaysia.

"I suggested the need for UMS to have an entrepreneurship module, where it is focused on job creation rather than being a jobseeker. In other word, to produce graduates who will be job creators," he told The Borneo Post during his ministry's Iftar ceremony.

"There are two modules. One is to address that issue of employable graduate for the undergraduates as well as masters, and postgraduates. We, MTI, will collaborate, by industrial immersion for the students, giving them experience and things like that," said Tangau.

He added entrepreneurship development would be part of the module to upscale existing entrepreneurs that had been trained by the ministry and its agencies.



Tangau (back row, centre) and other state leaders at the Ministry of Trade and Industry Iftar ceremony.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the MTI-UMS collaboration would look into making research done by the university more relevant to the needs of the future industrialized Sabah.

"The ministry will identify real research needs from the industry and we will pass it to UMS. UMS will undertake the research and things like that," he said.

Tangau added Sabah was also looking to emulate a formula that had successfully driven the electronic and electrical industry in Peninsular Malaysia, and a mode of commercialization of research.

"We hope after this the research needs of entrepreneurs, whether they are micro, small or medium and even the big industry, needs will be identified. Then, will pass it to UMS to do research. In

doing so, the research being done by UMS will be more responsive to the needs of the industry. So all of this is our ways of driving industry so that we can look the quality, not only enhance it but it will meet the needs of the consumer," he said.

"I also believe that by undertaking research, which is more responsive to the need of the industry, students will be more employable because based on our findings on the research being undertaken by UMS, it is tallied to what is needed by the industry in Sabah. So students by undertaking research, either at the undergraduate or the postgraduate level, there will be more relevant to the industry and therefore they are more employable.

"But there are specific

weaknesses in the students, which we have discussed, which I am not privileged to discuss it publicly but these are two strategies that we have identified. Yes, it is sad to say that it is amongst the highest in the country," he added.

Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Jaujan Sambakong, Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Junz Wong, Education and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Jacob, Youth and Sports Minister Phoong Jin Zhe, Assistant Trade and Industry Ministers Ben Chong and Azhar Matussin, and other dignitaries were also at the ceremony.

The ministry also extended Hari Raya Aidilfitri donations to 17 children from the Rumah Amal Kasih Kingfisher Likas.