

Varsities catalyst for community to identify issues, opportunities

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KOTA KINABALU: Thirty-five students of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and 18 students of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UMM) recently conducted a Community and Charity Programme, "Save Sea Turtle", with residents of Kg Tambisan Lahad Datu.

The programme was a collaboration between the two universities and their strategic partners, Celcom Timur Sabah and Tambisan Travel & Tour Sdn Bhd, involving a community programme and environment conservation to improve the quality of life at the area.

State Tourism, Culture, and Environment Assistant Minister Assafal P Alian said that universities are a catalyst for the community to evolve through regular and on-going research programmes as means to identify relevant issues and opportunities.

"University students possess the role in pursuing the culture of research by using the area of Tambisan as their research location which is related to tourism, entrepreneurship, marine life and historical heritages," he said when launching the programme recently.

The programme is a continuation based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Nov 2018 between UMS and the community represented by Tambisan Travel & Tour to develop Tambisan as a tourism hub.

UMS Business, Economy, and Accountancy Faculty Dean Prof Madya Dr Raman Noordin believes that expertise from UMS and the willingness of the Kg Tambisan residents would turn the project into a successful Community Based Tourism (CBT) and set an example for others to emulate.