

New degree program at UMS to produce job creators

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KOTA KINABALU: The Ministry of Trade and Industries is collaborating with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Department of Higher Education to create a new Bachelor of Entrepreneurship programme in effort to produce graduates who will be job creators, rather than job seekers.

Deputy Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, said there would be collaboration between the university, government agencies and existing entrepreneurs to ensure the success of the course.

"Apart from university studies, students will be exposed to the industry through research with industry players," he said.

Madius, who is also the Minister of Trade and Industries, said this when officiating at the closing of the Sabah Economic Development Corporation (Sedco) Entrepreneur Business Inspiration Programme here yesterday.

He said the people ought to change their mindset from being job seekers to venturing into entrepreneurship and said that the government has spent billions of ringgit to develop and provide opportunities to entrepreneurs.

"The main hindrance to building wealth and generating economic growth is one's mindset and attitude. Don't blame the government or leaders. The key to progress is in our hands," Madius said.

In addition, he said, his ministry would also create a database,

or an interactive portal, where entrepreneurs could update information on their business such as sales turnover, paid up capital and nature of business.

"I have instructed my permanent secretary to create the portal so that the assistance we provide to entrepreneurs will be based on merits. We will help businesses who are capable of generating wealth and grow the State economy," he said.

At the same time, Madius called for better cooperation among agencies under his ministry as well as between state and federal agencies in entrepreneurship development.

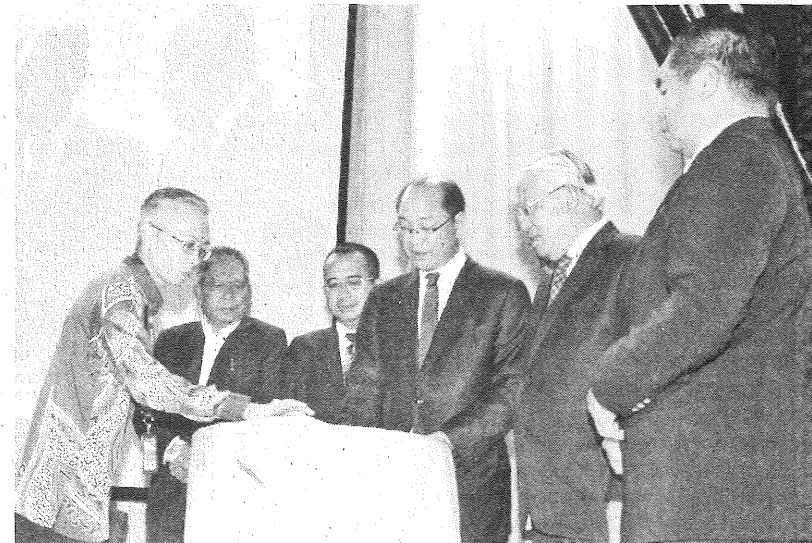
Earlier, he stressed on the importance to add value to the resources produced in the State, such as timber, palm oil and

rubber. He said Sabah would not be able to generate wealth if our resources were sold as raw materials.

Sedco chairman, Datuk Dr Richard Sakian bin Gunting, said the programme provided a platform for entrepreneurs under Sedco to interact, create network, share their knowledge and experience among each other.

He said there were over 30,000 Sedco entrepreneur alumni from various programmes, including business premises leasing and ownership, trainings, technical entrepreneurship scheme and Sedco group entrepreneurship panel.

"At the moment, we are updating the list and information on entrepreneurs and tracking their progress to determine the



Madius (third right) places his palm over a tablet to launch Sentrec while Gunting (second right) and others look on.

extent of the effectiveness and outcome of our programmes," Gunting said.

The event yesterday also saw the launching of Sedco Entrepreneurs Club (Sentrec) that provides room for the entrepreneur community under Sedco to interact, strengthen their networks, exchange information and experience and possibly collaborate in business.

"It is Sedco's aim to encourage more bumiputeras to be involved in business and to create more competent entrepreneurs who are able to contribute significantly to the State economy."

Also present were Assistant Minister of Trade and Industries, Azhar Matussin, and Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Industries, Datuk Madiyem Layapan.