

Out of Town – Nooks and Crannies in Sabah

*With North Borneo Explorer Sdn Bhd, Sabah Tourism Board
& Malaysia Tourism Board*

Kiulu and tourism

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Kiulu has been touted as one of the main eco-tourism destinations in Sabah. With its beautiful rivers, the Mantaranau and the Tuaran river as the base attraction, it is home to picnic, camping grounds, zip-lines, white water-rafting, hiking, tubing, quad-biking, eco-farms and other activities. It has a host of activities to entertain and keep visitors and tourists occupied and happy.

In fact, the Kiulu Tourist Association (KTA) and the Kadamaian Tourist Association (KATA), both juggernauts in eco-tourism Sabah, had signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 15/07/17 encouraged by the then chairman of Sabah Tourism Board and current state assemblyman for Kiulu Datuk Joniston Bangkuai to collaborate in promoting rural eco-tourism in both areas. Indeed, between KTA and KATA, there are about 70 eco-tourism sites with possibly,

according to KATA president Walter Kandayan, 30 more coming soon from Kadamaian alone. Massive numbers indeed are jumping on the bandwagon.

The proliferation of such eco-tourist sites raises issues of the variety, sustainability and viability of such eco-resorts which we shall study as we visit and find out more of such projects in time to come.

The KTA and KATA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a private institution, Almacrest International College (AIC) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to collaborate and work together to promote rural tourism. The MOU which was to run from December 2017 to December 2018 focused on the education, training and tourism development as outlined in the following:

1. To improve the socio-economic status of the community through development of rural tourism;

2. To engage and develop local youth participation in rural tourism via sustainable and responsible usage practice;

3. To encourage and motivate local tourism graduates to get involved in rural tourism through social innovation;

4. To deliver quality rural tourism experiences and improves the well-being of the villagers.

The MOU is currently under review and at least one of the partners Stephanie Yen from Almacrest International College (AIC) is happy and satisfied with the result, and hopes it will be continued.

THE ECO-RESORTS

Three of the operations in Kiulu lie within a 1.5km range of each other viz. Monggoluton river-view and picnic centre (MRVPC), Poturidong camp site (Poturidong) and Tagal area, and Kondis Point (Kondis Point). Two are privately owned while Poturidong is run by a village Tagal committee.