

Relief agency, UMS conduct community service in Mabul Island

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SEMPORNA: The presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in helping Covid-19 affected groups who lack basic food and other assistance shows that the role of NGOs during these phases is very important in complementing existing humanitarian needs.

For the Malaysian Relief Agency (MRA), almost a decade of experience managing humanity aid in the national and international fields has made the agency quite ready from all angles of planning and assistance. The presence of MRA in Borneo (Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan) completes the humanitarian aid management throughout Malaysia.

Recently, MRA Sabah in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) had jointly performed community, education and health services, as well as conducting a study on the effects of Covid-19 on the community in Mabul Island, Semporna.

MRA Sabah chairman Mohd Lutfi Hafifi Japili said Mabul Island is a tourist attraction that has been attracting thousands of local and foreign visitors and the main income of the population here depends on tourism activities as well as seafood.

Just like any other area the Mabul Island community was also affected by the pandemic with most resorts were closed until today, he said.

Mohd Lutfi said most of



MRA Sabah volunteers teaching children at Mabul Island on hygiene.

the residents here depended on daily wage to survive. Undoubtedly this also affected all tourism locations in Malaysia and around the world.

"Sabah MRA-UMS has a community centre in Mabul Island, and we have implemented several programs to assist and support the recovery movement of the community on Mabul Island by performing health and education services periodically so that this minority group is not left behind in the impact," he said.

Taking into account the importance of educational

needs, he said MRA-UMS Community Centre had started an educational program using smart phonics modules to help a group of students in Mabul Island get special-intensive education in a short period of time.

This is important to ensure that the needs for education can be met at this very challenging phase.

"As Mabul Island does not have health facilities, we also plan to hold mobile clinic on a larger scale at some points next month by focusing on more targeted health problems such as mother and child services as

well as more extensive personal hygiene campaigns.

"This service is important as it ensures that the community in this island are always ready and have knowledge about Covid-19 and know its effects on them in a larger scope," he said.

Mohd Lutfi called on generous donors to continue to support their efforts by sponsoring community and research centres so that they could continue to serve the community.

Donations can be channelled to account: Malaysian Relief Agency (Sabah) 560241 021056 (Maybank).