

# UMP'S FLAG FLYING HIGH ON TOP OF MOUNT KINABALU

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History was made on South East Asia's highest peak, Mount Kinabalu, when Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s flag flew proud after 37 Kinabalu expedition members made it to the top at the break of dawn on June 21, 2012.

The expedition was led by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim himself and it was organised in conjunction with the university's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

The members started their climb at 8.30am on June 20 from Timponon Gate.

Physical and mental strength, esprit de corp and team spirit were the main factors that motivated them in their pursuit to conquer the peak and made the dream a reality.

The climb and path, challenges that must be faced by all the members, covered a track of six kilometres before they reached the lodge at Gunting Lagadan (3,025m). It took them between six to eight hours to cover the distance.

The long and grueling trail did not really distract them during the journey as they were enthralled by the panoramic view offered by Mother Nature.

The members rested, ate dinner

and got the taste of what it felt like with a temperature of 10 degree Celcius at the site. They also took the opportunity to have a good rest before moving on to the final lap to reach the top.

The climbers started their walk exactly at 1.30am, leaving Gunting Lagadan to ascend to the top, a distance of 2.7km.

They moved in the dark hours and the coldness hit them hard as it was between two degree Celcius and four degree Celcius. It seemed like a never-ending climb that made it really tough and challenging.

They made it to Sayat-Sayat Hut and reported to the staff on



duty who recorded the trip. Once the members passed Sayat-Sayat Hut, it meant that they were getting close but the journey got even more taxing with the oxygen getting thinner at the high altitude.

However, they were full of spirit, helped each other to move ahead and soldiered on to conquer the highest peak, Low Peak at 4,095m.

Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim said solid cooperation, understanding, preparation and teamwork contributed to the success.

"The accomplishment is something symbolic to UMP denizens - with intellectual and physical force, and commitment, we can bring UMP

to glory," he added.

He also congratulated and thanked all who had made the mission a success.

One of the participants, second-year Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) undergraduate Shahrul Nirwan Shah Mohamed Mokshin said he was proud and thanked UMP for selecting him to be part of the expedition and being able to complete the mission.

However, Sharul Nirwan Shah suffered from dehydration.

He also said the dedication showed by Vice-Chancellor, other university officials and secretariat motivated him and his friends to

work harder to complete the climb.

It was really a proud moment for him when shouts of "UMP Boleh" (UMP Can!) filled every space of the South East Asia's highest peak. The climbers also made full use of the limited time on Low Peak to take pictures and basked in the beauty of natural wonders created by the Almighty, especially when the sun started to rise.

Words could not express the satisfaction evident on the faces of each of the climbers, for despite being exhausted, they were simply thrilled knowing that they had conquered the peak of Mount Kinabalu.

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