

*The undergraduates can understand what National Integration is about by getting involved in the process and learn about other peoples' cultures, customs and taboos of thye multi-racial society in Malaysia*



## 40 PARTICIPANTS JOINED UMP EXPEDITION IN FORGING CLOSER TIES WITH SABAHANS



A total of 40 people comprising staff and undergraduates of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) who were also members of an expedition that scaled Mount Kinabalu took the opportunity to get to know the locals in Kampung Lembah Permai, Kundasang in Ranau, Sabah.

The programme, 'Jalinan Mesra Muhibbah' was held on June 19, 2012.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin said the programme was among the activities held in conjunction

with the Mount Kinabalu Expedition and it provided them the chance to know more about the multi-ethnic community.

"The undergraduates can understand what National Integration is about by getting involved in the process and learn about other peoples' cultures, customs and taboos of thye multi-racial society in Malaysia," he said during a familiarisation programme between UMP undergraduates and 12 Dusun families.

He added that the undergraduates, who stayed with the families for a certain period of time, played a role as ambassadors of UMP and in the process, helped to promote the university and distribute information about its educational programmes.

The undergraduates also took part in 'gotong-royong' activities such as painting buildings, cleaning up the village area as well as carry out motivational camps to the children.

Kampung Lembah Permai Headman, Mahatin Sairin said the presence of UMP undergraduates

in the village could help change the perception of youths and make them understand the importance of tertiary education.

"We are happy with this visit which is very meaningful, more so it being the first involving UMP undergraduates.

"In fact, we will also take part in the Cultural Night show by presenting a variety of dances and performances in the spirit of sharing our culture with our visitors," he added.

He also said the villagers were mainly farmers and they would rope in their 'foster children' to work on the land and plant vegetables.

One of the participants, Keshram Raj, who stayed with orchard owner Hain Jasli, said it was an opportunity not to be missed for he would be planting all kinds of

vegetables on the five-acre of land.

The community programme was also made possible with the cooperation from Sabah's National Unity and Integration Department and undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Also present were Registrar, Haji Mustafa Ibrahim and Treasurer, Zainuddin Othman.

After the programme, the participants proceeded to go to Kinabalu National Park to continue with their mission and they were led by UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim in creating history by hoisting UMP's flag on top of Mount Kinabalu.

The climb was in conjunction with the university's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this year.

