UMS, Civil Defence urged to intensify outreach activities

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and the Civil Defence Department have been urged to intensify outreach activities and volunteer work to improve the image of universities and government departments.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said the UMS Civil Defence Undergraduate Corps (KOR SISPA), in particular, could play an effective role.

"You have an advantage over other students. I believe many of the skills acquired not only make KOR SISPA marketable but also capable of rendering assistance in times of disasters, emergencies and war.

"This is because the knowledge and training you have gained encompasses elements of leadership, discipline, teamwork and self-esteem that enables you to become leaders in the family unit, communities and the country," he said.

Musa said this in his speech in conjunction with the commissioning of UMS KOR SISPA and presentation of Medals of Sovereignty (PKN) at the Recital Hall of UMS here yesterday.

The speech was delivered by the Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture & Environment Datuk Kamarlin Haji Ombi. Also present were the Civil Defence Department's director general Dato Zaitun Ab Samad and Deputy UMS deputy vice chancellor who is also the commandant of UMS KOR SISPA Prof Dr Ismail Ali.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the 51 UMS SISPA cadet officers who received accreditation at the event.

He appreciated the commitment from UMS in paving the way for cooperation with the Civil Defence Department in ensuring the success of such programmes.

He also expressed gratitude to nearly 100 members of the Sabah Civil Defence Department who received the PKN medals in recognition of their service under Ops Daulat during the Sulu terrorist incursion in Lahad Datu last year.

"I call on the UMS SISPA cadet officers to look up to these recipients as role models because of their bravery in ensuring the sovereignty, peace and independence of the country remain protected from threats and violence," he said.

By Marryan Razan