‘Repsol places top priority on community welfare’

KOTA KINABALU: Community welfare has always been the top priority of the Repsol Oil & Gas Malaysia Limited (Repsol).

Repsol is passionate about giving back to the local communities,” Repsol Legal Manager, Dasyangku Mariahah Panggian Mahmudin said this in her welcoming speech during the 2018 Business Ethics Workshop yesterday.

The one-day workshop at UMS Recital Hall here, was jointly organised by Repsol and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). It was opened by UMS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students Affairs & Alumni), Prof Ismail Ali on behalf of the university Vice-Chancellor.

Mariahah added that the upstream and lubricants businesses company focused its community social investment in four main themes education, health and human capital development.

“ar the area of education, our thrust is on developing young Malaysian talents through Repsol scholarship programme, which was launched in 2000,” she said adding that the initiative was initially started at University Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Malaya.

Apart from Repsol’s scholarship programme for education, Repsol had also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UMS in 2014, with the objective of tapping into the pool of young talents from Sabah. The workshop was part of an extension of its initiative.

The workshop was specifically targeted for final year students as well as first year students as a way of getting them prepared for the many challenges they would face once they stepped into the working world.

She said Repsol had brought in three speakers to give talks throughout the workshop in hopes that the workshop could guide the students in life.

The speakers were from Repsol, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the Royal Malaysia Police.

On business ethics, Mariahah said it referred to proper business policies and practices regarding potentially controversial issues such as corporate governance, insider trading, bribery, discrimination, corporate social responsibility and fiduciary responsibilities.

Meanwhile, Ismail said ethics determined right or wrong behaviours in conducting a business.

He also said employees who hold ethical values tended to be good workers, performers and had a positive impact in a department or organisation.

Ismail also stressed that UMS is enhancing soft skills knowledge among students in order to increase their employment market availability.

“Our new Career Centre targeted to produce 70 per cent of students will be employed within six months of their graduation,” he said.

Also present were Repsol Government & Community Relations Adviser (Sabah/Labuan), Datuk ‘Emi Abdullah and Director of UMS Career Centre, Associate Professor Lai Yaw Meng.

About 120 students attended the workshop.

Marriage: MUIS chief says prefers to let daughter study

KOTA KINABALU: The proposal to lower the age of marriage for Muslims to 14 for females is being discussed by the Ministry of Law and Native Affairs, said the Sabah Islamic Religious Council (MUIS) chairman Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Hasbullah Tahar.

“I believe the matter is being discussed by the ministry,” he said when asked to comment on the issue after the presentation of financial aid to students from families in the Bottom 40 per cent (B40) income group at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here yesterday.

Sabah Mufti Datuk Bungsu @ Atiz Israf has proposed to have the minimum marriage age for Muslims lowered to 14 for females and 16 for males.

Hasbullah said the mufti’s proposal was his own view and the latter had rights to voice his opinions in this democratic country.

“Don’t make this into a huge issue. We have a diverse society and there is bound to be different views.

“Let the laws of the country be our guideline.”

On a personal note though, Hasbullah said he would ensure his daughter had education first.

“To me, I will let my daughter study. Jangan ada orang ganggu (Let no one disturb),” he said.