LABUAN: Universiti Malaysia Sabah Labuan International Campus (UMS-KAL) celebrated its Family Day in a modest but still vibrant atmosphere in the vicinity of the UMS-KAL building last Saturday, attended by the university’s community.

The opening ceremony of the university’s 9th Family Day was officiated by the Director of UMS-KAL, Prof Dr. Shariff Abdul Kadir Omang Al-Haj. Also present was his wife, Wan Azmona Wan Mohamed, Dean of School of Informatics Sciences (SSIL) Labuan, Dr. Ag Asri Ag Ibrahim, Deputy Registrar, Zamri Mohamad Tuah and Senior Information Technology Officer, Suprianto Mohd Noor as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of Family Day 2012 and senior officers, lecturers, staff and family members.

UMS-KAL Family Day 2012 themed as ‘UMS-KAL Family Harmony’ was aimed to strengthen the existing good relations between officers, lecturers and staff at the university. Various sport activities were organized to foster closer interaction among the staff themselves and family members.

Dr. Shariff said “after expending our energies working daily from Monday to Friday, now is the time for the staff to relax the mind and body and contribute to the success of the activities held at the UMS-KAL soccer field.”

In addition, he said, by organizing such activities, the staff can learn how to manage a large event, leadership traits, financial resources and manpower as well as communication between the members of the organising committee.

“I believe that anywhere a Family Day is held, the objective remains the same, which is to ensure that all staff have the opportunity to take part in all the planned events besides enhancing the personal ties among each other,” he said.

He added, as the only institution of higher learning (IPTA) in the Federal Territory of Labuan, UMS-KAL should be become an example for organisation of any event involving staff and their families.

He said the presence of the staff is a ‘feather in the cap’ for the organizers as it ensures the success of activities that have been organized to make us all healthy, friendly and happy to be with their families.

Dr. Shariff hopes the friendly and close interaction like this will be sustained and carry on when performing their duties and responsibilities as civil servants.

“We should not forget the trust given to us carry a heavy responsibility to the main client of UMS-KAL, which is the students and the local community in the Federal Territory of Labuan,” he said.

He is confident that all the activities that have been, are and will be implemented by the staff and students will ensure that communities in Labuan are aware of UMS-KAL as a storehouse of knowledge that is always open to opportunities for the public to foster a smart partnership, especially those involving expertise as a scholar.

Accordingly, Prof Dr. Shariff hopes lecturers of SPKAL, SSIL and PPIB will share their knowledge with the village community, government departments and agencies, private and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure the success of their programmes.

“The local community will continue to place their confidence on the lecturers, staff and students of UMS-KAL for successful cooperation of activities in this region,” he said.

He did not forget to advise all citizens of UMS-KAL to always maintain the name, image and performance of UMS-KAL as a respected storehouse of knowledge in the Federal Territory of Labuan. He said all the university community should work together to ensure that the UMS-KAL continue to remain a world-class and respected university in the country.