

# UMS play an vital role in the development of education

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KOTA KINABALU: UMS can play an important role in the development of education in the state, particularly in infrastructure 'knowledge software' and the tourism sector.

Minister of Tourism, Datuk Dr. Ng Yen Yen, said UMS is also highly advanced in marine science and Sabah strength lies in the marine tourism sector, such as diving on the islands and climbing Mount Kinabalu. She said her ministry would, together with UMS, discuss on ways of collaborating with UMS in the tourism industry. She also hoped that her ministry could inspire students of UMS on the nature and development of the tourism industry in Sabah.

She was speaking at a press conference in conjunction with her visit to Universiti Malaysia Sabah, here, yesterday.

"We expect the second generation of the tourism sector in Sabah will continue to expand to study and maintain the tourism sector in Sabah, irrespective of whichever sector, nature, sea, beaches, forests, islands and so forth. This is to provide our own students the opportunity to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of nature because it is students who will become leaders in the future," she said.

She also said that her ministry would like to strengthen and further develop the tourism sector in Malaysia. Last year alone, Malaysia was visited by 24.6 million tourists and 10 percent of them

or 2.5 million tourists came to Sabah.

"Sabah is an attractive tourist destination and place of interest for tourists. Many tourists visit Malaysia for long periods, particularly Sabah, as there are many places of interest. Thus, we should develop tourist attractions like garden parks in the state. For example, in Mesilau where the flora and fauna is very beautiful and interesting."

In addition, a new product 'The Art Hunt Of Sabah', which was launched at the Kota Kinabalu International airport in Sabah last week, is considered a form of contemporary art tourism. Several galleries will take part in this contemporary art tourism as it is one of the latest tourism products in Sabah.

"Who knows in the future UMS may be the site for contemporary art tourism so students can now begin preparing to present the arts and cultural uniqueness of their own. The ministry of tourism has launched this new product because it does not involve a high cost, does not interfere with nature and only require creativity for each arts and culture presented.

At the same time, she said, through her ministry, the tourism industry intends to move forward to improve and ensure that the new tourist guides in Sabah are the best and this matter will be reviewed as each tourist guide has a different character.

"All this is a step forward for the tourism industry in Malaysia under the National Tourism Transformation Plan (NTTP)," she said.



Ng Yen Yen (centre) and Dr. Kamaruzaman (right) during a press conference at the Chancellery Building, UMS yesterday.



Dr. Ng Yen Yen (third left) hands over tourism booklets to a representative of the UMS library.