

100 Yayasan Sarawak scholarships yet to be claimed

KOTA SAMARAHAN: There are 100 Yayasan Sarawak scholarships waiting to be claimed by students from the rural areas of Sarawak, enabling them to embark on pre-university (pre-U) studies at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

Deputy vice-chancellor (Students Affairs) Prof Mohd Fadzil Abd Rahman said this scholarship was set aside specifically for rural students to give them a chance to excel.

He was speaking at a press conference after launching the 'Sukarelawan Inspirasi Kenyalang 2013' Programme at the university yesterday.

Fadzil said the Ministry of Higher Education offers scholarships for students to go to pre-U, but this is available to all students nationwide.

"It does not focus on local students here, especially those from rural areas. This is why we asked Yayasan to work with us in ensuring Sarawakians have a chance to move up in life," he said.

Students who meet the minimum requirements can commence classes in the June intake this year, he added.

Meanwhile, Fadzil said the volunteer programme organised by the Student Council aimed to bring Unimas students together with the young students from the rural areas.

"Volunteerism is encouraged in this university, enabling our students to share their



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME: Fadzil (centre) signing the programme book while Abdur Rahman (left) looks on.

experience with them and encouraging the students from rural Sarawak to pursue higher education."

Programme director Abdur Rahman Abdul Rahim said 'Sukarelawan Inspirasi Kenyalang 2013' will cover 10 rural schools in places like Saratok, Batang Igan, Dalat and Sibul.

"We will be distributing stationery and books to them, while sharing what we know with them," he said, adding that they have amassed over 500

books which were purchased and donated by fellow students.

Abdur Rahman said the idea for the programme came from him, not knowing how to spend his 1Malaysia Book Vouchers, and realising that the RM250 can go a long way to benefit others.

"I want to invite all my fellow university students nationwide to think about what huge change they can make in the lives of our young brothers and sisters," he said.