

Surat khabar: The Star, Sarawak (News)

Hari/Tarikh: 30/9/2013

Muka surat: S4

Tajuk : Undergrads To Give Free Tuition.

Undergrads to give free tuition

250 children to benefit from pilot project involving universities and colleges

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KUCHING: Children in Kampung Gita Lama and Gita Baru will receive free tuition from undergraduates of several higher learning institutions here.

Under the pilot project of Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS) Tuition Mission, some 100 volunteer undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Samarahan, Politeknik Kuching, Institut Pendidikan Guru Batu Lintang Campus, Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Tun Abdul Razak and Kuching Komuniti Kolej will tutor 250 children aged 11 to 17 years old on a rotation basis.

The main aim of the project is to inculcate the interest to learn through motivation and encouragement while seeking to create a pool of progressive and dynamic undergrads who are constantly in touch with the commu-

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nity as well as subscribing to the spirit of volunteerism.

Works Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof, during the launch of the project, lauded the initiative, saying it would certainly help to build a knowledgeable society.

"When you start coaching someone, you will come across questions which sometimes you yourself need to look up on. This way you

learn too.

"It is not just a one-way traffic where you teach and the pupils listen. From my personal experience, there are bound to be questions which will make you do your own research to find the answer," he said.

For this, he saw that the mission presented a win-win situation for both parties.

Earlier, YSS chairman Datuk Zuraidah Atan said the mission would take place for six months whereby tuition lessons would commence four times a week for a duration of two hours.

She said the tutorials would focus on English language as well as Mathematics and they would be carried out in a fun way to catch the interest of the children.

She said YSS also picked volunteers for the mission because it wanted undergrads who willingly wanted to help the community rather than be forced into it.

Later in a press conference, Zuraidah

said that if this pilot project turned out to be successful, YSS would extend the mission to other parts of the state and also Sabah.

Meanwhile, Unimas vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohammad Kadim Suaidi said the university's Faculty of Medicine and Health Science was still hoping to have its own teaching hospital.

Prof Mohammad Kadim said the university understood the constraints faced by the Government in preparing a huge budget to build a facility like a teaching hospital.

However, he hoped that Unimas would be given priority.

He said Unimas had been using five hospitals, including Sarawak General Hospital, Sibul Hospital and Bintulu Hospital, for students to do their practical.

He also said the faculty had an enrolment of 700 medical students who were staying temporarily at an off-campus building near SGH.