

# Dialogue with association to ensure safety of tourists

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Sabah Tourism Board (STB) plans to engage in a dialogue with the paragliding association in the state to enhance their standard operating procedures (SOP) and ensure the safety of tourists.

This decision comes in the wake of a recent paragliding accident involving a 64-year-old female tourist from China.

Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Christina Liew made this announcement during her ministry's Hari Raya celebration at the Sutura Hincour Resort on Thursday evening.

She emphasised the importance of assessing one's health before engaging in activities with potential risks, advising individuals to prioritise their well-being.

Liew also urged activity operators to thoroughly inform their clients about the associated risks.

Responding to queries about her



Datuk Christina Liew (fifth left) with foreign dignitaries at the Raya open house. Among them are the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Kota Kinabalu, Dr Huang Shifang, Japan Consul-General for East Malaysia, Yamashita Yoshito, Honorary British Consul for Sabah, David Powell and Honorary Consul for Australia in Kota Kinabalu, Datuk Andrew Sim.

whereabouts during the accident, Liew clarified that she was attending the State Legislative Assembly for four days.

However, her officers from STB and representatives from the Republic of China Consulate were present to assist the victim and her relatives.

"They provided assistance from Ranau Hospital to Queen Elizabeth Hospital, arranged for X-rays and CT scans, and ensured she received the necessary rest," she said.

Additionally, they facilitated transportation and coordinated the tourist's return to China.

After her legislative duties, she was actively involved in distributing Hari Raya assistance.

# Hibiscus Petroleum further solidifies its position in Malaysia

**KOTA KINABALU:** Hibiscus Petroleum has successfully completed the integration of its two Malaysian operating companies at the beginning of April to further solidify its position in Malaysia.

Its chairman, Zainul Rahim Mohd Zain who was speaking at the company's Raya open house here last Monday, announced that these two companies, SEA Hibiscus Sdn Bhd and Hibiscus Oil & Gas Malaysia Limited, were a result of acquisitions made in 2018 and 2022, respectively.

"Now with a united organisation, aptly known as Hibiscus Malaysia, we aim to achieve a unified working culture, operational synergies and cost optimisation across our assets in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah," he remarked.

"Zainul added that with this new structure, they are slowly and surely edging towards their vision of being a respected, valuable and responsible energy company.

Hibiscus Petroleum has been in operation for nearly 13 years now, and Zainul said they are proud of their accomplishments so far. Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun attended the open house together with some 200 stakeholders from the government, contractors and Hibiscus KK's operational personnel.

"As chairman of the Group, I am filled with immense pride of achievements that we've attained over the past year. We achieved a revenue of RM2.3



Zainul (right) presenting a placard symbolising the donation of two computers and printers to Mohamad Sabri (second left) of Rumah Putera Harapan, witnessed by Masidi (second right) and Edmund Ang of Hibiscus (left).

billion for financial year 2023, marking the first year in which our revenue has hit the RM2 billion threshold. Our EBITDA also exceeded the RM1 billion mark for the second consecutive year, whilst our average net daily production exceeded 21,000 boe/day for calendar year 2023.

"Our financial position continues to grow with the relatively high oil prices and our operational and safety performance are also reasonably good at this time. But as always we need to be consistently alert."

Zainul disclosed that their operational achievements have also been recognised. At the Petronas Malaysia Upstream Awards 2023, Hibiscus won silver awards in the HSE Excellence and Project Delivery Excellence categories. Most recently, they also received three awards at

Petronas' Wells Appreciation Townhall in March.

On the business front, Hibiscus was recognised as the 'Most Outstanding Company in Malaysia - Energy Sector' at the 2023 Asiamoney Asia Outstanding Companies Poll.

This poll is designed to acknowledge excellence in areas such as financial performance, management team excellence, investor relations, engagements and corporate social responsibility initiatives and was supported by 1,225 fund managers, analysts and bankers.

"These are major achievements for Hibiscus. Our collective efforts have propelled us to new heights and strengthened the bonds that make our organisation exceptional," Zainul exuded.

Beyond their business and operations, Hibiscus has been

very committed to giving back to the local communities, particularly in the areas where it operates. For instance, the company is partnering with local universities to offer scholarships to deserving students in engineering, finance, IT and environmental fields. Its goal is to support the government's efforts in developing and nurturing the nation's talent pool.

"In Sabah, Hibiscus is sponsoring human papillomavirus, or HPV, screenings to assist the 840 women for early detection of cervical cancer. Financial constraints, a lack of awareness and accessibility have been key deterrents to these women having HPV screenings, particularly in remote areas of Sabah," Zainul highlighted.

In addition, they are conducting capacity-building projects in Kelantan, Sabah and Terengganu communities, collaborating with local agencies and foundations to promote sustainable incomes and uplift their quality of living. One such example is the implementation of a solar power project in Kg Bilal, a remote village in Sabah with no previous access to electricity.

Hibiscus also used the Raya open house to take a moment to remember those who were less fortunate when they donated two desktop computers and printers each to two orphanage centres, Rumah Putera Harapan and Rumah Anak Yatim As-Sakinah.



The Students' Representative Council for the 2022-2024 term.

# UCSF elects new Students' Representative Council

**KOTA KINABALU:** The University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) recently dissolved the Students' Representative Council (SRC) for the 2022-2024 term following the conclusion of the previous term.

Subsequently, a campus election was held to elect student representatives for the upcoming term.

The newly elected members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) for the 2023/2024 term are Lenley Gary Amirrose (President), Alexander Damian Ferdinand (Vice President), Dayang Nuren Shafena binti Mualim (Secretary), Firdha binti Abdul Mubin (Assistant Secretary), Femex Lee Mejeh (Treasurer) and Mubid Raqib Iman bin Abdul Ahmid (Exco of Residential, Welfare & Hospitality).

Meanwhile, Dayangku Lailatul Nor Sa'adah binti Pengiran Masbah is Exco of Residential, Welfare & Hospitality, Ratigah Elyana Rudie Adie (Exco of Corporate Communication and Public Affairs), Aaron Dean Basiau (Exco of Sports and Recreation), Nurhikmatul Syifa binti Haris (Exco of Sports and Recreation), Dayang Sharifah Raudhah binti Omar (Exco of Culture and Arts), Britney Cole Gorge (Exco of Academic and Career), Nursyahshahira binti Junaidy (Exco of Personal Development and Humanities (PMH)), Shalyeva Sarah Khivun (Exco of Personal Development and Humanities (PMK)), Meredy Muriel Michael (Exco of Green Innovation & Entrepreneurship).

During the dissolution and election period, Lenley expressed his gratitude, saying, "I extend my heartfelt thanks to all my friends and UCSF students for entrusting me with the role of president of the Student Representative Council for the 2023/2024 session.

"I am grateful for the exceptional and dedicated team that supports me as we navigate the challenges ahead until the end of our term. Lastly, I congratulate the newly elected Student Representative Council for the 2024/2025 term and wish them the very best in their leadership endeavours."

# Emergency plans in place to ensure safety of haj pilgrims - Mohd Na'im

**PUTRAJAYA:** Emergency plans are in place to ensure the safety of Malaysian pilgrims in the event of any incident or disaster during the haj pilgrimage, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

He emphasised that the safety of 31,600 haj pilgrims remains the government's top priority.

"We are in constant communication with the Saudi Arabian government (to obtain the latest situation). Rest assured that whatever the nature of calamity is, we are always prepared with alternative plans," he told reporters at the Semarang Aidfitri programme here yesterday.

Mohd Na'im said this when asked about Tabung Haji (TH) preparations amid reports of heavy rain and flash floods in the northern part of Saudi Arabia, which forced the closure of schools and roads.

He also expressed his confidence that TH personnel would give their full commitment to ensuring the smooth execution of the 2024 haj operations.

At the same time, the minister advised pilgrims to prioritise their health, maintain discipline and protect Malaysia's reputation while in the Holy Land so as not to affect the country's good relations with Saudi Arabia.

"We are the first country to receive haj visas from the Saudi Haj and Umrah Ministry this season, so please do not engage in any act or activity that may violate the rules set by the Saudi government," he said.

The first batch of haj duty personnel departed on April 30 followed by three groups on May 2, 6 and 9.

The initial flight for pilgrims will commence on May 9, and the final flight is scheduled for June 9. — Bernama

# UMS students have experiential learning in rural communities

**KOTA KINABALU:** One of the progressive teaching strategies that works well and provides students with a thorough comprehension of a subject taught outside of a lecture hall is experiential learning.

It is put into practice when students are brought to the field to handle problems related to the course material to develop a deeper understanding of the subject. Additionally, there are interactions between students and the community or stakeholders.

To make sure that the learning objectives based on this experience are met, the lecturers simultaneously keep an eye on the field sessions.

Students enrolled in Human Resource Management courses at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Faculty of Business, Economics, and Accountancy are regularly exposed to experiential learning opportunities in communities that align with the course topic.

As part of the course's "Managing Human Resources in Small Firms and Entrepreneurship" topic, Dr Jakaria Dasan, the course instructor, has given the students the task of engaging with a community of entrepreneurs who engage in entrepreneurial activities while investigating human resources-related problems that can be solved and then disseminated back to the



The students at Kampung Sayap, Kota Belud.

community.

This experience-based learning exercise is intriguing because as the English proverb puts it, "You can kill two birds with one stone" by addressing two problems at once.

Put differently, this proverb indicates that an individual can accomplish two primary goals that are frequently in the background of the problem or issue that has to be fixed with just one action.

As a result, the students have a deeper understanding of the subject matter, and the conclusions drawn from their experiences may also serve to enhance the socioeconomic conditions of the local community.

What's even more intriguing is that the majority of these MBA students are professionals, whether they work for the government or private companies. Some of them are even successful business owners.

They impart their knowledge and experience to the community members while they are there.

This is what transpired on April 27 and 28, when 38 of Dr Dasan's students in his Human Resource Management course when they visited Kampung Sayap, Kota Belud for the two-day experiential learning.

The student's assignment is to assess the competitiveness of the human resources that run the Edu-Tourism Aura Montoria's jungle trekking, and the Sayap village community's production of various local foods and goods. Apart from fulfilling the assignments assigned by the instructor, the students have effectively engaged in community-based activities which saw the support of the village head, chairman of JPKK, chairman of KRT, leader of SK

Sayap PIBG, and local leaders as well as Sayap villagers.

The programme culminated in the distribution of food baskets to the widows.

Numerous events were held on the first day, and the village community operated with a warm greeting and a strong presence in the stage.

Traditional cake baking, head-based craft creation, magic management as a makeshift village museum, traditional school administration, homestay management, and many other activities are included in the programme.

A seven-kilometer trail of the Edu-Tourism Aura Montoria climbing exercise on the second day was a jungle trekking to remember. This is because, along the way, the students were surprised to see a lot of beautiful flora and fauna while generating suggestions for improving the attraction and practical information that may be produced to provide visitors who engage in recreational climbing activities with diversity and enjoyment.

Earlier this year, UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor stated that community should be viewed as an important component that led to the establishment of UMS in Sabah.

Thus, Kasim believes that with the setup of more UMS Living Labs especially in the rural parts of Sabah is in tandem with the slogan, "Leading towards Innovative Societies".

The ingenuity of interdisciplinary scholars in different rural Sabah communities can initiate this process, enabling UMS's full presence in the state.

For the record, one of the UMS Living Laboratories with a focus on education-based tourism is Kg Sayap, Kota Belud (Edu-Tourism Based). Each year, the community, which is the next to the Sub-Station Sayap in Kinabalu National Park, hosts a variety of research and educational projects involving faculty members and students from the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Accountancy.

**Author biodata:**  
Dr Jakaria Dasan is a faculty member in the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Accountancy (FBEA) Entrepreneurship Programme. He specialises in human resource management. He teaches Human Resource Management course for the UMS Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Accountancy (FBA) programme. He is also a Supreme Council member of the Gabungan Persatuan Penaja dan Peniaga Negeri Sabah (G2PNS) and actively participates in the socio-economic development of rural community.