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# SIARAN MEDIA

## [ MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT ]

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 August 2022

### **SABAH STATE GOVERNMENT, YAYASAN SABAH GROUP AND SABAH ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST TO EXTEND THE DaMal: PATROLLING (ENFORCEMENT & MONITORING) INITIATIVE**

**KOTA KINABALU (Tuesday):** The Sabah State Government (through the Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department), Yayasan Sabah Group and Sabah Environmental Trust (SET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding Extension for the Danum Valley-Maliau Basin-Imbak Canyon (DaMal): Patrolling (Enforcement & Monitoring) initiative for another three years (2022-2024) on 23 August 2022 at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

The signing ceremony was officiated by Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Abidin Madingkir.

Signing on behalf of the Sabah State Government were the Chief Conservator of Forests, Datuk Frederick Kugan and the Director of Sabah Wildlife Department, Encik Augustine Tuuga. While Yayasan Sabah Group was represented by the Director of Yayasan Sabah cum Executive Chairman of Innoprise Corporation Sdn. Bhd., Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar @ Yusof bin Khan Bahadar while SET was represented by its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Haji Rahimatsah.

In a statement Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar said, prior to this, Yayasan Sabah Group and SET and the Sabah Forestry Department have long collaborated through the DaMal: Patrolling (Enforcement & Monitoring) initiative to monitor and protect wildlife through an MoU signed on 24 October 2017, which ended in 2021.

With the signing, the Sabah Wildlife Department officially joins the DaMal: Patrolling (Enforcement & Monitoring) initiative.

“Among others, the initiative aims to address poaching and illegal encroachment in the DaMal Rainforest Complex through establishing and joint operation of a dedicated patrol team to enforce and monitor the DaMal area, enhancing the capacity of the dedicated patrol team and other forest rangers. Consequently, establishing the DaMal area as a sustainable and superior management landscape in Sabah as a World Heritage Site,” he explained.

As a result of the 2017 MoU, 444 patrolling activities were carried out within the DaMal Rainforest Complex.

The MoU was extended to expand cooperation between the Parties in environmental management and conservation, particularly in Sabah, to establish a long-term cooperative and sustainable development relationship based on the mutual goal of preserving natural treasures for future generations.

Following the extension, ongoing efforts to support biodiversity protection will include regular data collection using the SMART system, equipping rangers with the necessary tools, setting and maintaining camera traps, developing a monitoring system and conducting regular patrolling.

Accordingly, through this collaboration, various training will be organised to enhance the capacity of the dedicated teams and other forest rangers through SMART training and integration of wpsWatch and EarthRanger to improve data accuracy.

As part of the efforts to facilitate a snowball effect on public awareness, several sustainable development programmes involving the local community will be implemented to explore the need to conserve our rainforests and their natural wonders.

Yayasan Sabah Group will be working in tandem with Sabah Environmental Trust to conduct and carry out the project, update quarterly progress reports on the status of patrolling and manage field works and site visits.

Meanwhile, the State Government (through the Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department) will support the initiative by providing an enforcement team, developing a centralised SMART system, and providing technical assistance for the ranger enforcement capacity.

Additionally, the Sabah Environmental Trust will fund future activities and assist as support groups for the EarthRanger and wpsWatch integration training.

Yayasan Sabah Group is confident that its solid alliance with the State Government (through the Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department) and Sabah Environmental Trust will benefit the overall environmental conservation and management efforts. It is hoped that the continuation of this collaboration will strengthen the fight against poaching and illegal encroachment, thereby protecting the wildlife and its home.



**Pix 1:** Dr. Haji Rahimatsah (seated, left), Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar (seated, second from left), Datuk Frederick Kugan (seated, second from right) and Encik Augustine (seated, right) signing the MoU extension document witnessed by Datuk Abidin (seated, centre).

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