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# SIARAN MEDIA

## [ MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT ]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 July 2023**

### **YAYASAN SABAH GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

**KENINGAU, Monday** - Yayasan Sabah Group will continue to focus on human capital development to bring about change in rural communities.

The Director of Yayasan Sabah, Dato' Sri Haji Ghulamhaidar @ Yusof Bin Khan Bahadar, said this in his speech at the opening ceremony of the Pusat Kraftangan Sabah (PKS) hostel in Keningau on 24 July 2023. The event was officiated by the Deputy Chief Minister I / Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industry cum Member of Parliament for P180 Keningau, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey G. Datuk Kitingan.

According to Dato' Sri Haji Ghulamhaidar, the programmes brought by the Yayasan Sabah Group are centred on the Sabah Maju Jaya Development Plan (SMJ). The SMJ Plan, the result of the initiative of the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, among others, emphasises the need to improve human capital and the well-being of the people.

"Based on this commitment, the Yayasan Sabah Group will continue to support the SMJ development agenda to create a progressive and successful State," he explained.

Therefore, guided by the SMJ Plan and in line with the Yayasan Sabah Group's mission to improve the quality of life of Malaysians in Sabah and to alleviate poverty, he said the Yayasan Sabah Group, through Pusat Kraftangan Sabah, has been implementing various programmes to help the community generate income through handicraft production.

"With strong support from the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department in funding programmes since 2012, Pusat Kraftangan Sabah has focused on Human Capital Development in the handicrafts field," he said.

"Beginning 2021, PKS has taken a step forward with the rebranding of the programme being carried out, which is the Rural Integrated Craft Heritage Programme or RICH," he added.

"The RICH programme focuses on developing and strengthening the entrepreneurship of programme participants. The handicraft entrepreneurs will become more sustainable and competitive in facing the challenges of the handicraft industry through this programme," he explained.

Between 2011 and 2023, the Pusat Kraftangan Sabah trained about 22,000 people in handicrafts such as batik, rattan, bamboo, woodwork, etc.

He added, "Pusat Kraftangan Sabah also works closely with various agencies such as the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation (MHDC), the Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) to get expert advice as well as skills and technology in certain fields."

PKS has provided a career platform for its former participants through the Handicraft Training Programme and the RICH Programme.

"Some former participants are now trainers in the handicraft sector, not to mention handicraft entrepreneurs. Some former participants continue their studies at the National Craft Institute in Rawang, Selangor. This is the return we want to see when our society is independent and succeeds in freeing itself from its economic constraints," he said.

PKS introduced another new programme this year, the Raw Material Cultivation Programme, which will benefit the people in rural areas. This programme involves cultivating rattan and bamboo raw materials in the Yayasan Sabah's concession land, covering an area of 200 acres. This initiative aims to create a continuous economic chain in the handicraft industry while ensuring the sustainability of the raw material source.

According to him, it is clear that the programmes organised by Pusat Karftangan Sabah have successfully piqued the interest of many young people across Sabah since it started operating in 2012.

"With the welfare of the participants in mind and the reduction of long-term rental costs, the idea of building a hostel for the participants was born," he said.

This three-story dormitory is divided into two blocks, one for men and one for women, and can house up to 200 participants at a time. Each dormitory block has 23 rooms with surau facilities, a laundry room and a pantry. This hostel also has toilets and bathrooms for people with disabilities, making it easier for this group to use the facilities.

The construction of this hostel, which cost RM17.67 million, was funded by the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department. Construction started on 6 May 2021 and was completed on schedule within 24 months on 3 May 2023.

Also present at the event was Assistant Minister of Public Works II cum N40 Bingkor Assemblyman, Datuk Robert Tawik, Member of Parliament for P181 Tenom, Encik Riduan Rubin, Sabah Energy Corporation Chairman cum N41 Liawan Assemblyman, Datuk Annuar

Datuk Ayub, , Director General of the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department, Dato' Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan bin Haji Abdul Aziz, Sabah Federal Secretary, Dato' Makhzan bin Mahyuddin, Director of Sabah State Development Office, Tuan Samsul bin Dollah, Heads of State and Federal Government Departments and Yayasan Sabah Group officials.

Picture 1 : The Director General of the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department, Dato' Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan bin Haji Abdul Aziz (third from left) handing over the mock key to Director of Yayasan Sabah, Dato' Sri Haji Ghulamhaidar @ Yusof Bin Khan Bahadar (Fifth from left), witnessed by Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey G. Datuk Kitingan (Fourth from left).

Picture 2 : Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey G. Datuk Kitingan signing the plaque of the Pusat Kraftangan Sabah hostel.

Picture 3 : Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey G. Datuk Kitingan cutting the ribbon to symbolise the opening of the Pusat Kraftangan Sabah hostel.

Picture 4 : Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Jeffrey G. Datuk Kitingan after planting the Tecoma tree.

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