

BY MEDECCI LINEIL

**KUCHING:** Communities need strong financial management skills and environmental awareness, particularly in waste management, to ensure sustainable growth, said Bukit Begunan assemblyman Datuk Mong Dagang.

“Acquiring knowledge through education can lead to better decision-making for solving problems,” he said when officiating at a recent community project on Empowering Financial and Environmental Literacy at Rumah Panjang Selepong Lop in Sri Aman.

Organised by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak’s (UNIMAS) Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB), the project was funded by the university’s University Sustainability Centre (USC) under the ‘Dana Lestari’ initiative.

Established in 2021, the fund aims to empower, sustain, and enhance community sustainability efforts aligned with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Unimas’ goals.

This project built on a successful previous year’s programme on financial and environmental knowledge sharing.

Twenty participants from all age groups, including children, attended the one-day session.

Activities included educational opportunities and university life presentations, proposed waste management initiatives by undergraduate students, follow-up discussions on financial and

# Cash and trash tips for better living



DR Michael (second from left) presents a souvenir to Mong (right). Looking on is Dr Kueh (far left)

waste management practices and engaging financial management games.

“These innovative activities are crucial for continuous engagement and empowering the community with knowledge in finance, environment, and

promoting education for young children,” said project leader Associate Professor Dr Jerome Kueh Swee Hui.

The project team comprised Associate Professor Michael Anak Tinggi (Project Advisor), Dr Josephine Yau Tan Hwang, Audrey

Liwan, Dr Rosita Hamdan, Joanne Shaza Janang, Nora Chung, Hairullizam Azemi (Facilitators), and undergraduate student assistants Stephenia Kedoh Justine, Alvin Leod Sediet, Eva Kellycia Samuel, Muhammad Syukri, and Saiee Brinda Rajan.

## Don't miss chance to pursue free college

**MUKAH:** Children should seize the opportunity to further their education because Sarawak has world-class higher education institutions.

Balingian assemblyman Abdul Yakub Arbi said, with the establishment of these institutions, we are introducing free education for the children of Sarawak by 2026.

“I hope that all Sarawakians take this opportunity because we need a young generation that is in tandem with the needs of the future.

“If you do not succeed in furthering your studies at Public Institutions of Higher Education (IPTA), Sarawak also provides other institutions such as Swinburne, Curtin, Universiti Teknologi Sarawak (UTS) and so on,” he said during the opening ceremony of the Mukah Division 9th edition of the Sarawak Education Expo and Project of Dream Realised Roadshow (PRO-DR), at the Kingwood Resort, here, yesterday.

Yakub, who is also a member of the Trust Board of the Tabung Ekonomi Gagasan Anak Sarawak (TEGAS), said that the government would ensure that Sarawakians were able to continue their studies in institutions in Sarawak without having to worry about financial problems.

This is because the Sarawak Foundation is able to finance the cost of studies through the sponsorship schemes provided.

Touching on the Education Expo, Yakub was confident that it was one of the efforts to raise awareness for children in rural areas about educational opportunities, especially under the Sarawak Foundation.

Certificates were also presented to 39 outstanding Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) 2023 students consisting of National Secondary School (SMK) Three Rivers, SMK Mukah, SMK ST Patrick and Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Mukah.

Also present were Tellian assemblyman Royston Valentine and a representative of Sarawak Foundation director Alina Vincent.

## 105 villagers receive aid

**KUCHING:** Deputy Minister of Energy and Environmental Sustainability (MEETSY) Datuk Dr Hazland Abang Hipni presented donations to 105 recipients during a ceremony held at Kampung Beradek here on Friday.

The recipients were from various groups including the ‘asnaf’ or underprivileged, comprising persons with disabilities (OKU), single mothers, the elderly, and orphans, chronic patients, funeral beneficiaries, and higher education institutions (IPT) students.

Dr Hazland, who is also Demak Laut assemblyman, expressed his

hope that the aid would ease the recipients’ burdens and be used wisely.

“In Kampung Beradek, you are also not been left behind in terms of infrastructure development, with completed projects such as a futsal field and a community hall.

“These can serve as places for recreation and gatherings to discuss issues affecting the village among the residents,” he said in a statement.

The donation ceremony is an annual event in the constituency, organised by Dr Hazland to support the underprivileged.



DR Hazland (right) presents the donation to a recipient during a ceremony at Kampung Beradek.