By MOHD IZHAM B. HASHIM
izham@newsabah-times.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Asian Metropolitan University (AMU) awarded scholarships totalling RM3 million to nine Sabah-based organisations yesterday, to help students achieve their ambitions and future careers.

Among these organisations were the Sabah Education Department, MARA Sabah, PUSPANITA (Association of Women Civil Servants and Wives of Civil Servants), Sabah Youth Council, United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) and Pribumi Sabah.
PUSPANITA, the Sabah Education Department and MARA Sabah each received RM500,000 worth of scholarships while the remaining six were each given RM200,000 worth.

Minister of Community Development and Consumer Affairs Datuk Jainab Ahmad Ayid and Executive Director of Aman Group Berhad (AEGB), Subramaniam A/L Amamalay presented mock cheques to the nine organisations at a ceremony here recently.

It was held in conjunction with the launch of The Real Deal RM10 Million AMU Scholarships.

“We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide some RM3 million worth of scholarships to various departments and bodies to allow young Sabahans to begin their Foundation and Diploma Programmes at our AMU associate colleges,” said Subramaniam.

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“We managed to trace and arrest him at the workers’ quarters some 18 hours after the incident,” he told a press conference at the district police station.

Villagers found him lying face down on the ground and immediately reported their discovery to the police.

Zulfie was stabbed twice of the suspect,” he said, adding that the incident, classified as murder, was being probed under Section 302 of the Penal Code.

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He hoped the recipients would pursue either undergraduate or postgraduate studies at the AMNC University in Peninsular Malaysia.

According to Subramaniam, AMU has produced over 20,000 graduates nationwide including from Sabah who started their foundation programmes and Diploma programmes at the Kota Kinabalu campus.

Many of these graduates went on to pursue their degrees in the Kuala Lumpur campus and are given financial assistance and scholarships.

“Many graduates are now working in Peninsular Malaysia while others have returned to Sabah to serve the state in various industrial sectors,” he added.

The AEGB group is the holding company that owns Asia Metropolitan University in Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru and also AMU Associate colleges in Kota Bahru, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu.

Meanwhile, Jainab hailed the university’s move in awarding scholarships to young Sabahans saying it was a positive incentive and motivation for students to strive towards excellence in their selected fields of studies.

“The positive impact of giving scholarships is evident from the increasing rate of student enrolment,” she told over 100 people attending the event.

Recognising the fact that awarding scholarships can reduce the rate of dropouts among students, Jainab said the government had adopted approaches to eliminate the problem of school dropouts in Malaysia.

“To arrest this problem, the government has provided a Trust Fund for Poor Students (KWAMP) and enhance the standard of education so eventually they will be equipped with the necessary skills, qualifications and competencies,” she said.

She said enhancing the standard of higher education in the country remained a priority for the government in supporting the development of the younger generation.

“Education and knowledge is vital for the advancement of society and progress, therefore it’s fundamentally important for the government and the private sector to work hand in hand to uplift the quality and standard of education in the country,” she said.

Among those who attended the event yesterday were the Sabah Education Department Principal Assistant Director (Student Affairs), Roslan Hj Idris, Chairman of the UPKO Education Bureau, Senator Dr. Lukas Umbul and MARA Sabah Officer for Training and Careers, Muhammad Fauzi Masnan.