



UCSF: CATALYST FOR INNOVATIVE, RESPONSIVE AND COMPETITIVE HUMAN CAPITAL

KOTA KINABALU, Friday, 8th July 2022: Human capital development is one of the key pillar under the Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) development agenda for Sabah to become a developed state. This emphasis is in line with the objective of the Sabah Foundation Group (KYS), which is to provide educational opportunities and facilities for Malaysians in Sabah.

The establishment of University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) in 2014 was another key milestone of the Sabah Foundation Group in the provision of education. UCSF offers educational opportunities for the people of Sabah to further their studies at diploma and degree level. The various fully accredited academic programs, training and short courses offered, such as science, accounting, tourism, hospitality, creative arts and also environmental management are relevant to the Sabah economy.

UCSF as a centre of higher learning under the auspices of the Sabah Foundation Group has prepared a Fifteen (15) Year Long Term Development Plan starting from 2016-2030. This Long Term Development Plan is divided into three phases, namely: First Phase 2016-2020, Building the Foundation; Second Phase-2021-2025, Expansion; and Third Phase 2026-2030, Maturity and Sustainability Stage. UCSF is now in the Expansion Phase. During this Second Phase, the UCSF has faced serious challenges due mainly to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has to some extent affected the UCSF Expansion Phase.

During the Sabah Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting on 4th July 2022, the YAB Chief Minister cum Chairman of the Board of Trustees, YAB Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Noor stated that with the appointment of the new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Board of Governors and also the Vice Chancellor, UCSF is expected to overcome the problems and constraints faced. The appointment of this new line-up in top management gave a new lease of life to UCSF's development agenda in Phase Two.

During the Board of Governors Meeting on 8th July 2022, UCSF Chairman, Datuk Dr Mohd Yaakub Hj Johari who is also the Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors introduced and outlined three thrusts of the UCSF Transformation Plan 2022-2026 to put UCSF on a sound footing to reach Maturity and Sustainability, while simultaneously play a key role in the development of Sabah.

First, reset UCSF to serve as a catalyst for the development of creative, innovative, responsive, adaptable and competitive human capital in Sabah, in line with the mission of the Sabah

Foundation, and the Sabah Maju Jaya agenda introduced by the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Noor.

Second, leverage UCSF's competencies as well as Sabah Foundation's capacity to contribute towards value creation, innovation and industry development such as sandbox and incubator services, IR4.0, data analytics and big data application and the development of Smart Cities; and

Thirdly, restructure UCSF through diversification of markets, products and services; digitalization, improving corporate governance, social responsibility and sustainability; increased capacity and adaptability of staff; diversify funding sources; and the establishment of advisory committees and so on.

"UCSF is determined to support the SMJ and National Development agenda through a network of cooperation with government agencies, statutory bodies, NGOs, and other institutions of higher learning, such as in University Village, among others through short-term courses, policy studies, economic analysis, and consultancy services.

"The UCSF Transformation Plan includes measures to restructure UCSF by increasing the capacity of UCSF academic staff, and adaptability and professionalism of UCSF staff in general in order to produce skilled, creative, innovative, adaptable and competitive human capital," said Datuk Dr. Yaakub.

He said this while chairing the UCSF Board of Governors Meeting in the Senate Room, UCSF on July 8, 2022. Also present were Dr Mohamed Haleem Bin Mohamed Razi, Madam Praxedes John Matatun@ Felicia, Professor Dr Junaenah Sulehan, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Clarence B. Malakun JP and Professor Datuk Dr Hj Kasim Bin Hj Md Mansur.

Datuk Dr Yaakub also congratulated and welcomed the new members of UCSF Board of Governors, namely Datuk Sam Mannan, Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Clarence B. Malakun JP and Professor Datuk Dr Hj Kasim Bin Hj Md Mansur.

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