

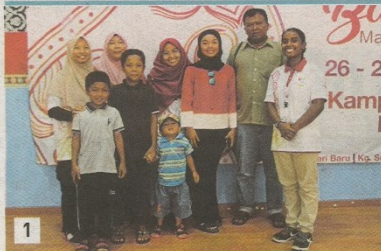


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Living the 'kampung' life

SOME 110 students of Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) recently experienced the kampung life through the Bakti Siswa Mahasiswa Harapan Rakyat programme, which was organised by the varsity's student representative council and Student Affairs Centre.

Held in conjunction with the varsity's 21st anniversary celebration, the largest volunteer project for the university this year took place in four villages in Pagoh, Muar — Kampung Sari Baru, Kampung Panjang Sari, Kampung Sri Makmor and Kampung Seri Menanti.

Bakti Siswa is an annual community service programme which began almost a decade ago. It provides Uniten students with an opportunity to engage with rural communities and learn more about their daily lives.

Bachelor of Civil Engineering student Roshan Charles Razali, who is the programme's director this year, said it took a team of 50 and a year's effort to realise the project.

"Our mission was to nurture a sense of giving back to society in youth and make them realise their responsibility towards the nation. The objective of our project for this year was to reach out to the community through education, eco-volunteering, community engagement and electricity safety awareness."

Before taking part in the Bakti

Siswa programme, participants were briefed by Uniten Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha. They then went to the programme's opening ceremony at Kampung Panjang Sari in Pagoh, where they met their foster families.

Participants took part in exciting activities and programmes, including *Rewang*, eco-volunteering, gotong-royong and knowledge sharing sessions with students from SRK Panjang Sari and SMK Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah 1.

The closing ceremony was officiated by Bukit Kepong assemblyman Dr Shahrudin Jamal, who said such programmes were desired as they provided an opportunity for students to engage in community activities.

Roshan said participating in the programme made the students appreciate the relationship between them and the community, especially with their adopted families.

"We thank our sponsors, Yayasan Canselor Uniten and Tabung Amanah Zakat Uniten, for being a part of this wonderful journey."

Present at the closing ceremony were the village committee members, representatives of local administrators, Uniten top management and residents of all four villages.



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1. A Bakti Siswa Mahasiswa Harapan Rakyat participant (right) posing with her foster family on the first day of the programme. 2. A Uniten student participant making friends with a kampung boy. 3. A group picture with pupils of SRK Panjang Sari. 4. Students trying their hand at extracting oil palm fruit. 5. Students helping the villagers cook. 6. Uniten students, donning kain pelikat, getting ready for a friendly football match with villagers. 7. Participating in a kenduri preparation. 8. A participant painting a mural on a wall with a pupil of SRK Panjang Sari.