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[VOL. 33 JUNE 2019](#)

**UMP researchers invented stingless bee honey suction pump f**

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A group of researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has developed a product called 'Sleek' to help stingless bee farmers to extract honey without compromising the quality.

The group was led by Dr. Mohamad Firdaus Basrawi, 34, who is also a lecturer at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. The rest of the members were Dr. Daing Mohamad Nafiz Daing Idris, Dr. Mohd Hazwan Yusof, Dr. Mohd Anati, Luqman Abdul Halim and Siti Sarah Shaikh Mohd Raziff.

Dr. Mohamad Firdaus said the project began in 2016 and was fully completed in 2018, following a request from the Pahang Entrepreneurs Association (PUKP).

He said Malaysia had more than 4,000 stingless bee honey farmers and in Pahang alone, there were 110 farmers.

Their monthly production was estimated at 1,400 kg, he added.

"The association had sought help for an easy and cheap method to extract the honey which gave us the idea," he said.

"Prior to this, various methods had been used which included using of the straw, syringe and even a pump. However, the honey produced was of less quality, bubbling while the suction flow was slow," he added.

He said the 'Sleek Pump' created was a battery-powered tool and easy to carry.

He also said if a rubber tapper would require a good knife to get quality latex, a stingless bee honey farmer would need a good quality honey.

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At the initial stage, the tool was used and tested by 30 farmers who were members of PUKP and feedback on the effectiveness of the suction pump, he added.

“Based on their response, they said it was much faster to use the suction pump as compared to other devices,” he said.

“There was less bubbling. Most of the consumers did not like honey with too much bubbling, and at times, it was difficult to filter the honey,” he said.

“With the ‘Sleek Pump’, suction can be made straight from the bee nests into bottles and it does not need a lot of bubbling to set in. The system is powered by batteries that can last up to four hours,” he said.

He added that the compact-designed pumps would be in the market soon and the price was set between RM100 to RM150.

“The suction pump works faster and the honey produced is bubbling-free,” said Dr. Mohamad Firdaus.

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## **40 UMP students enjoyed the open air *iftar* at MPK field 2**

Forty Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) students enjoyed a casual, open air *iftar* at the Kuantan Municipal Park (MPK) field 2 on Friday, 16, 2019.

It was their first time having a breaking of fast at the field, which was a popular spot among the locals during the month of Ramadan.

The MPK field 2 is located next to the mosque and it has become a gathering place for Muslims to have the *iftar* during the month of Ramadan.

The *iftar* programme was organised under UMP MyGift initiative and the students were recipients of the Scholarship.

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They were there together with UMP MyGift Squad. Also present were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) Zainuddin and UMP MyGift Officer, Mohd. Jamil Mohd. Jaafar.

When met, Syamill Irhamie Shamsudin, 24, who is from Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, expressed his excitement and opportunity for them to mingle and get acquainted.

“We can forge better ties and discuss about more programmes that can be organised for the benefits of the students,” he said.

“We also got to mingle with members of the public and distribute dates while at the same time, promote the university,” he added.

He added that breaking fast at an open field such as this and enjoying Pahang traditional delicacies was indeed a unique experience that he would surely take along after graduation.

Another student Nur Syafiqah Omar said she was happy to be part of the programme as it allowed her to participate in various activities that they could do in the next semester.

“More programmes such as this should be organised and that it should not only be focused in the month of Ramadan but also more about UMP,” she added.

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## **Raya shopping spree for orphans and the less privileged**

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Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Women Association or also known as Matahari organised an outing for orphans and the less privileged at Mydin Supermarket in Kuantan on May 30, 2019.

Its President, Professor Datin Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim said the programme was one of the activities of the association and aimed at helping to reduce the burden of the children's families.

"*Matahari* managed to collect a substantial amount of money from UMP staff and the public and each of them contributed a portion which would be used to buy new clothes.

"We brought the children and the families along so they could choose their own clothes. They were happy with the members," she said.

Also present were Pro-Registrar, Abd Rahman Haji Safie and Datin Sri Fazia Ali.

Professor Datin Dr. Mimi Sakinah said Matahari also gave away essential needs such as rice, sugar, flour, and other allocations provided under UMP MyGift, so they could make the necessary preparation for the festive season.

In another programme, *Matahari* jointly organised the Campus Pantry Raya Charity Sale with the Department of Social Work to give free clothes for its needy undergraduates.

She hoped that initiatives taken by the association would help bring cheers to them and that they could enjoy the festive season.

She also thanked all the contributors and donors for helping to make the programme a success.

When met, Siti Aisyah Yusri, 15, said she and her three siblings received *baju kurungs*, shoes and long dresses.

"We cannot wait to try on the new clothes for the *hari raya* celebration," she added.

Fatin Nur Hazirah Mohd Wazir, who lost her father who was an employee with UMP, said she was thankful for the association.

She was touched that they still remember her although her father was no longer with the university and that they paid respects to his father on the first day of *hari raya*.

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**Year Six pupils thrilled to join UMP students for *iftar***

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It was an exciting experience for 41 Year Six pupils from Sekolah Kebangsaan Serandu in Pekan for the Malaysia Pahang (UMP) students for *iftar* in the university's campus in Pekan on May 14, 2019.

The pupils were participants of a programme called My*Cilik* Serandu, where they were given motivation for the examination, *Ujian Penilaian Sekolah Rendah* (UPSR).

It was part of the activities outlined in the university's *Cahaya Ramadan* programme organised under UMP's

During iftar, the pupils ate their meals together with their facilitators and other undergraduates in big trays in the university community in UMP Mosque.

Project Manager, Muhd Hariz Asyraf Marzuki said programme such as this was very helpful in preparing them to spend some time with their facilitators during the Ramadan month.

“The *iftar*, served in big trays which has been the university's tradition, will help to foster closer ties among the

“You can see that they are enjoying the experience from the smiles on their faces as it is their first time eating

One of the pupils, Muhammad Yaakob Jailani, said he was happy to be able to participate in the programme and broke fast with the facilitators, adding, it made him motivated to do his best and to step foot as an undergraduate.

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**Infak Ramadan programme: #BPACare contributions bring joy**

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In an effort to make the holy month of Ramadan more exceptional, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s (BPPP) feted 44 orphans and children of less privileged families from Sekolah Kebangsaan Serandu, Pekan the al-Quran programmes that were held on May 24, 2019.

The children received contributions in cash and kinds which were presented by General Manager of Re Manager of Academic Management Division (BPA), Zainuddin Mat Husin.

Zainuddin said the annual event was organised under #BPACare programme and that it started in 2017.

"The aim is to help reduce the burden of the less fortunate and make life more cheerful for them especially

"It also helps to foster closer ties between UMP and the community established through its Corporate S good to the people especially those living in the area of Kuala Pahang," he added.

He was thankful with the positive response from the UMP community as well as the public who had made c

"They showed their commitment to ensure that the activities run smoothly," he added.

Sekolah Kebangsaan Serandu Headmistress, Salmiah Abdul Jalil said UMP's involvement in providing v that they were hoping for because the school lacked certain facilities to cater to the pupils who included spe

She wished that collaboration such as this would continue with different kinds of CSR projects planned in th

Also present at the event was Sekolah Kebangsaan Serandu's Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) Pr

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