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# SIARAN MEDIA

## [ MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT ]

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 December 2016**

**YAYASAN SABAH'S DANUM VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA: LATEST INFORMATION SHARED**

**Kota Kinabalu (Tuesday)** – Latest survey executed in Danum Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) presented and shared the heritage of one of the world renowned conservation areas.

“In pursuant to Sabah rapid growth, Yayasan Sabah Group remains steadfast in conservation efforts and is an advocator of good forest management in its conservation areas, whilst, maintaining balance in other development,” said Director of Yayasan Sabah, Datuk Sapawi Bin Haji Ahmad in his speech at the official opening of the Danum Valley Wildlife and Resources Survey 2016 Seminar and Launching of Danum Valley Monograph at Shangri-La’s Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa, Kota Kinabalu on 6 December 2016.

His speech was delivered by Deputy Director of Yayasan Sabah, Datuk Hajah Rosmawati Haji Lasuki.

According to Datuk Sapawi, conservation areas under the purview of Yayasan Sabah Group namely Danum Valley, Maliau Basin, Imbak Canyon, Silam Coast and Taliwas River have earned Sabah as a centre for sustainable forest management and leading ecotourism destination.

“Apart from general tourists, special interest group such as researchers and scientists as well as nature lovers are the main guests to these areas,” he said.

“The existence of these conservation areas demonstrate Yayasan Sabah Group’s commitment in developing sustainable ecosystem. We are not only protecting its vast areas but more so we are protecting the quality and ecosystem function of our forests through rehabilitation and conservation,” said Datuk Sapawi.

“One of these commitments is the implementation of Danum Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) Wildlife and Resources Survey which was held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016,” he added.

“The participants were confronted with various challenges throughout the survey, especially for those who explored Mount Nicola and Mount Tribulation for the first time. Participants had to stay in remote areas deep in the rainforest for gruelling 10 days, exposed to wild animal threats as well as surrounding adversities,” he said.

Datuk Sapawi added, “Without the assistance and support from all participants and various agencies, Yayasan Sabah Group could not have accomplished a well-executed survey. Clearly, the survey results will help strengthen the effort in rainforest preservation and conservation in the country, especially in Danum Valley.”

Danum Valley is Sabah’s treasure of nature wonders and has been in the spotlight for researchers around the globe and tourists alike. Recently, Danum Valley was in the limelight again with the discovery of at least 33 tropical trees which are found to be the tallest in the world with heights more than 94.1 meters. World renowned ecologist, Professor Greg Asner from Carnegie Institute of Science, United States of America announced that these trees are among 50 tallest tropical trees in the world. The trees measured approximately 40.3 meters in diameter, evidently showing the age of Danum Valley rainforest.

“With an area of 43,800 hectares, Danum Valley has recorded 200 species of trees in every hectare, habitat to more than 120 species of mammals including ten species of endangered primates and more than 328 species of birds. Since 1985, DVCA has generated more than 290 PhD and Master’s thesis and over 450 refereed publications. This makes Danum Valley as one of the main rainforest research centre in the world,” explained Datuk Sapawi.

“Congratulations to Danum Valley Management Committee for the publication of Danum Valley monograph entitled Danum Valley The Rainforest, depicting research papers which has been conducted in DVCA for 35 years since early 1980s. Well done to Mr. Hans Hazebroek, Tengku Datuk (Dr.) Zainal Adlin and Dr. Waidi Sinun for bringing Danum Valley to limelight by portraying the uniqueness of its flora and fauna as well as its natural beauty. This publication will definitely show the world what Danum Valley is all about,” he concluded.

**PIC 1 :**



*Datuk Hajah Rosmawati (second, left) launching the Danum Valley monograph entitled “Danum Valley The Rainforest”. Also in the picture are Mr. Hazebroek (right), Tengku Adlin (second, right) and Acting Group Manager Conservation and Environmental Division of Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr.Yap Sau Wai (left).*

**PIC 2 :**



*Acting Group Manager Conservation and Environmental Management Division of Yayasan Sabah Group, Dr. Yap Sau Wai (second, right) briefing on the Danum Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) Wildlife and Resources Survey to Datuk Hajah Rosmawati (right), Tengku Adlin (second, left) and Mr. Hans Hazebroek (left).*

**PIC 3 :**



*A section of the participants.*

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