

Headline	Mutiara Timur programme provides new experience for students		
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Mutiara Timur programme provides new experience for students through TNB's MTP programme.

BANGI: Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) through Yayasan Tenaga Nasional (YTN) is committed to producing excellent students from the less fortunate and lower income groups, particularly from the rural areas, in their effort to empower national education through the Mutiara Timur programme.

YTN director Datuk Dr Shaari Md Nor said the programme organised by YTN, is one of TNB's initiatives that begin in 2013 to realise the dreams of these students from East Malaysia.

"The programme is aimed at exposing them and providing them with new experiences so that they can aspire to become academically excellent students. At the same time, the programme will function as our CSR and become the platform for students to know all about Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) and TNB," he said.

For 2018, a total of 25 students from Sarawak and another 25 from Sabah who excelled in their Pentaksiran Tingkatan 3 (PT3) 2017 examination have been selected to take part in the programme, he told Utusan Borneo at a hotel here recently.

He pointed out that the selection was conducted by YTN officers via interviews. Names of interviewees were provided by the Education Ministry and state Education Department.

"These successful lot carry leadership qualities, are active in co-curriculum activities and have the potential to excel in the SPM 2019 examination despite them coming from the lower income group or households under the B40 income category," he said.

For Glend Pilim, 16, from SMK Nabawan, his original dream was to become a doctor but his interest in engineering grew after taking part in the Mutiara Timur programme.

"I have learnt many new things after taking part in this programme. My interest in engineering grows. This programme also enabled me to choose further study course effectively," he said.

"I hope I can help bring in changes to my hometown and village in terms of infrastructure development as well as water and electricity coverage," he said.

Nistelrooy Reynold said he was impressed with what he could achieve from the programme.

Nistelrooy, Form Four student of SMK Kapit, described the programme as an eye opener and it motivated him to help fellow folks in the rural areas of Sabah and Sarawak.

"I am impressed with i-City Shah Alam, Selangor because in Kapit we do not have the attractions of the i-City. It gives me new perception of what Kapit can be like in future," he said.

"The experience of meeting new engineering students of Uniten will forever be remembered as it drives me to study harder and succeed in my future endeavours," he said.



▲ The Mutiara Timur programme participants visiting Uniten premises.

Many Pius, 16, from Sabah, set foot for the first time in Kuala Lumpur and that gave her the opportunity to tour interesting places like TNB Integrated Learning Solution Sdn Bhd (Ilasas), Petronas Twin Tower and i-City Shah Alam.

"I have gained a lot of knowledge from the programme. I am now very interested to take up engineering," she said.

"I reside in one of the rural areas in Sabah which does not have basic facilities and modern facilities. The programme is an eye opener. Engineering is now seen as the most important aspect in nation building. When I become an engineer the first thing I would do is to help develop my hometown," she said.

Natasha Feelara Nabau, 16, from Kapit, said the programme motivated her to take up electrical engineering.

"The programme was not only a study tour but it inspired us to acquire all sorts of knowledge, skills and experiences, particularly in the field of electrical engineering with TNB," she said.

"Among the most memorable moments was when I studied Mathematics from Sir Uzairi inside a class. Who would have thought that one day I could be studying Mathematics from Sir Uzairi in a class, when all this while I only chatted with him on Instagram," she said.

Marillyn Natalia Michael, 16,



▲ Manny Pius, Natasha, Marillyn, Edrinsha, Glend Pilim and Nistelrooy - students from Sabah and Sarawak - during the Mutiara Timur programme.

from SMK Selirik, Kapit expressed her happiness after joining the programme.

"Initially I thought TNB was just a utility company. But later I found out that TNB has its own network and this include Uniten and Ilasas," she said.

"I was also happy to note that a fellow Kapit resident in Tan Sri Leo Moggie is TNB chairman. He is one of those we most respect and he has become our source of inspiration. As for us in Kapit he is world famous," she said.

"Apart from that, the programme

provided us with lots of knowledge and new experience," she added.

Edrinsha Malvin Usak, 16, from SMK Nabawan, Sabah, said the programme provided her with opportunity to see with her own eyes how electricity is produced or generated at Ilasas.

"Ilasas and Uniten have the most sophisticated facilities. The experience helped to equip me with the knowledge to further my studies and to become an electrical engineer," she said.



▲ The participants showing some interest at the Renewable Energy Research Centre at Ilasas.