Mara offers 40,000 places in July intake

TAWAU: Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) is offering not less than 40,000 places nationwide for school leavers in its July 2013 intake, and they comprise 1,575 places in Kolej Profesional Mara, 1,418 in Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi Mara, 3,262 in Institut Kemahiran Mara, 5,460 in Kolej Poly-Tech Mara, 936 in German Malaysian Institute, 3,323 in Universiti Kuala Lumpur and 25,000 in GiantMara.

These institutions offered certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate studies, said Mara director-general Datuk Ibrahim bin Ahmad.

He said Mara has received about 60,000 intake applications to date and 30,000 of them have been accepted after screening requirements. School leavers are encouraged to grab the available opportunities by taking any of the high added-value courses, such as aerospace, maritime, psychology, public policy and medicine, Ibrahim said.

It would serve as a vital measure for balancing the physical and non-physical attributes of the country’s economics, he added after launching the state-level Mara Education Carnival 2013 at the district community hall here yesterday. The two-day carnival, which began yesterday, features about 60 educational booths.

Ibrahim said that since Mara’s inception 47 years ago, a total of 687,249 students had successfully completed their studies at Mara Education Institutions such as Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), German Malaysian Institute (GMI), Mara College, Mara Professional College, Poly-Tech Mara College, Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) and GiantMara (vocational training centre).

More than 500,000 students have received Mara’s education sponsorship, more than 200,000 students obtained business loans from Mara from 1951 to 2012 and 150,000 Mara students received entrepreneurship training, he added.

“On rough count, the Mara community comprises almost 30 per cent of the active workforce that is contributing to our country for almost four decades. Along the way, Mara, at appropriate times, made adjustments to its entire program and strategies in order to fulfill the nation’s stated aspirations,” Ibrahim pointed out.

Ibrahim said Mara had played a vital role as a socio-economic engineering agency and indeed as cited by Rural Development and Regional Minister Datuk Seri Haji Mohd Shafie Apdal, Mara should have the vision to make preparation for a new generation of Bumiputeras that is able to handle challenges.

He said the main focus of Mara’s transformation is to propel the Bumiputeras’ participation in the economy based on innovation (i-based economy) through four strategies, namely, i-entrepreneurs, i-workers, i-investment and i-organisation.

These four strategies are to be driven by entrepreneurship, education and investment factor.

Also present at the carnival were Sabah Mara director Zulkarnain bin Zakaria, Tawau Municipal Council vice president Tai Yun Wu and assistant district police chief, Superintendent Keong Ho Eng.