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From: Unit Komunikasi Korporat
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 9:59 AM
To: UUM - All Staff; UUM - All Students
Subject: Celebrating Hari Raya With Friends Helps Assuage Homesickness Amongst International Students At UUM



Unit Komunikasi Korporat
CORPORATE COMMUNICATION UNIT

Universiti Utara Malaysia

26 JULAI 2015 / 10 SYAWAL 1436H

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"UUM : UNIVERSITI PENGURUSAN TERKEMUKA"
(*THE EMINENT MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY*)

Translated by: Arifah binti Amran

**CELEBRATING HARI RAYA WITH FRIENDS HELPS ASSUAGE HOMESICKNESS AMONGST
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT UUM**



UUM ONLINE: Celebrating Hari Raya for the first time away from their families does not only test the patience of the international students at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), but it also affords them a new experience in getting to know the culture of this country.

For two of these students, this year's Syawal celebration will leave them with a distinct yet treasured experience as this is their first time celebrating Aidilfitri away from their families.

Dian Puteri Utami, 26, from Indonesia, said that this year's Syawal celebration was different from that of the previous year because, this time around, she had no choice but to be away from her family since Ramadan.

She said that, even if it did give her a brand new experience, it still did not relieve the sadness that she felt. She added that this year's Hari Raya would definitely leave her with a rather singular experience.

"I am also sad because my younger sister, who is also a student here, has had the good fortune of getting to celebrate Hari Raya with my family back home, thus making me feel lonely.

"Nevertheless, the Hari Raya celebration in Malaysia has been lively despite the absence of my family. In fact, the spirit of Hari Raya and the fostering of Silaturahmi remain strong," said Dian, who is enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme in Information Technology here, at UUM.

Meanwhile, Bello Zainab, 44, from Nigeria, is also experiencing her first Hari Raya celebration in a foreign country, away from her family, this year.

According to her, during this Hari Raya, she would visit her friends and immerse herself in the festive atmosphere of the Hari Raya celebrations in Malaysia as a salve for the homesickness that she feels.

Zainab, who is currently pursuing the undergraduate programme in Human Resource Management, said that the tradition of celebrating Hari Raya here in Malaysia was not very different from that in her native Nigeria as they, too, exchanged delicacies prepared for the festival with their neighbours.

"I am sad that my family is not by my side, but there are many friends here who have comforted me and asked me to enjoy the pleasant experience of celebrating Hari Raya here.

"This is a new experience which is quite valuable. Even though I am sad that I have to be away from my family, I am happy to know that I have learnt something new and have made new friends from all over the world," she said.

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