

# Varsity students get a taste of village life

By Rizalman Hammim

AS part of an effort to foster a better relationship between Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) and the community of Parit Raja, a group of students spent three days and two nights at the homes of villagers in Kampung Parit Lapis Seri Dalam in Parit Raja.

The 70 students from UTHM's Faculty of Technology Management, participated recently in a village adoption (*kampung angkat*) programme organised in collaboration with the Seri Bertuah Youth Association.

The association's secretary, Mohd Najib Samuri, said besides fostering a better relationship between UTHM and the local community, the programme also gave the students a taste of living in a village environment.

"The programme also serves to introduce the students to the customs and lifestyle of the villagers, who are mostly of Javanese descent," said Najib.

During the programme, the students participated in various activities with the villagers, including a *gotong-royong* at the village's mosque and a telematch.

"The students also organised a motivational programme for students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Timbul who will sit the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) examination later this year.

"There was also a briefing for parents on UTHM and the courses and programmes that are available at the university," said Najib.

He said the programme also gave the villagers an opportunity to get to know UTHM better as they were a little overawed and intimidated by the university.

"While they were at the village, the students also visited small and medium industries located in the villages that



The boys in the village participating in one of the games of the Sukan Rakyat.

produced popular local snacks like *kerpek* and traditional delicacies," said Najib.

The villagers also gave a rousing reception to the students and there

was an overwhelming participation by villagers in all the activities that were organised.

"Forty families played *hoki* to the students, with some hosting more than

one student, during the duration of the programme."

Najib said the programme was an eye-opener for the students, especially those from Somalia.

State Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Committee chairman Aziz Kaprawi, who is the Parit Raja assemblyman, officiated the closing of the programme.



Youngsters getting ready for an event at the Sukan Rakyat.



Bowling, village-style, was one of the events at the Sukan Rakyat.



The students waiting to be introduced to their host families.



UTHM students participating in a gotong-royong.



These students, from among a group of five from Somalia, are learning how to cook a local dish.



Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia undergraduates conducting one of the activities in the motivational programme for UPSR students. —NST pictures by Mustapha Ismail



Bowling, village-style, was one of the events at the Sukan Rakyat.