DO YOU KNOW

By ANNA VIVIENNE

Kadazandusun: The making of a village

In most Kadazandusun communities, young married families will migrate to a new undeveloped area as soon as their village grow a bit crowded. They will leave their 'parent village' to etch out a living from another area. Sometimes they will fail due to poor soil condition in that new area or other un-conducive development like flooding. Most of the time however, they succeed in making a new village. The village will be named after their 'old' village. For instance, if you are from Kg Bambangan in Inanam, the new village will be called 'Kg Bambangan Baru Telupid' or something to that effect.

Making a new village is sheer hard work and need perseverance.

Initially, the elders of the tribe have to identify the site and parcel the land to the applicants.

Then the hard work begins.

If the land is a wooded area, the applicants will start by cutting down the undergrowth and smaller trees. This is called 'monusut'. After that it is left to dry. Then the bigger trees are felled. When the trees are all cut, the branches are then cut properly and stacked up by the felled tree. The cleared land is left to stand until all the felled trees are 'browned' or dry.

While the felled trees are drying, the area around the land is cleared of any debris. A path about 12 feet wide will be cleared along the cleared area. This is called 'mongulat'.

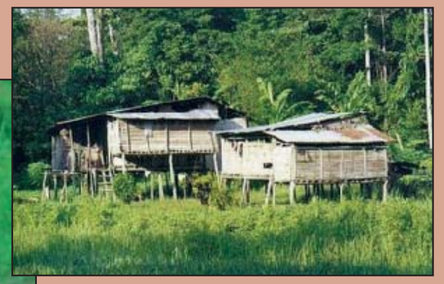
After that the whole cleared area will be set on fire. The cleared path disallows the fire from spreading out into other areas.

Sometimes the fire will blaze for two days, depending on the thickness of the cleared area. When the undergrowth is too deep, the fire could blaze for days.

Anyway, after the fire dies down, the people will start clearing the area off un-burnt debris. The debris is once more piled up in smaller mounds, usually near stumps and burnt. This is called 'mamarun'.

At that time, the men and their older bigger sons will start building their house. The materials for their houses will have been ready before the clearing activities.

The houses are usually quite small, mostly 25 by 20 feet or even smaller. They are made from wood, bamboo and attap or palm fronds sewn together. There will be a kitchen, a common space for eating and even sleeping, with one or two rooms. The rooms are usually for the parents and their marriageable daughters. The rest will sleep on the common space.



While the men build the houses, the women will start planting crops such as hill paddy, yams, sweet potatoes and tapiocas.

Some of them may have brought seedlings of fruit trees from their old village and this will be duly planted around the land. Fruit trees may comprise of the veritable Jackfruit, Tarap, langsat and rambai. These are the most common fruit trees planted by the locals in the past but nowadays it can be anything from durians to sour sops and avocadoes!

Then they start to settle seriously. The people will usually better their water supply by building a bamboo 'aqueduct' from the spring. This is called 'tolunsug'. Each family will have a tolunsug of their own. If there is no spring water source, the men will usually scour the flat area there for potential places to dig wells.

After all these initial preparations for the village, the people will settle down, tend the land and take care of their families; a village is born.

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Hyatt's contribution to society

HYATT Regency Kinabalu hosted a Hari Raya lunch for some 134 students and their teachers from Asrama Sekolah Ugama Islam Sabah (ASUIS) in Pekan Tambunan.

In keeping with the theme "Caring & Sharing" with the less fortunate, a team of 30 staff members from Hyatt led by Haji Johari Timbang recently hosted children aged ranging from 7 to 15 years to the lunch. They were extremely happy to see the team and the school choir presented a number of Hari Raya songs for the visitors.

Following a hearty lunch, the children were each given "Duit Raya" which brought wide smiles to their faces. According to the hostel's Principal cum warden Puan Zubaidah Abdul Rahim, they rely very much on public generosity and donations and are extremely grateful to Hyatt Regency Kinabalu for their continuous support over the years.

The visit to Asrama Sekolah Ugama Islam Sabah is part of the Hyatt Regency Kinabalu's ongoing community projects; this deed is also aligned with Global Hyatt's philanthropic volunteer programme F.O.R.C.E – Family of Responsible and Caring Employees.