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Off to conquer Mount Kinabalu

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ROTARY Club of Bukit Bintang (RCBB) has chosen 21 students from the Montfort Boys Town and UniKL Business School to climb South-East Asia's tallest mountain, Mount Kinabalu, with the aim of developing character and empowering them with life and leadership skills. RCBB royal patron Tunku Naquiyuddin Tuanku Jaafar launched the programme. All the students will make the climb from June 15 to 19 under the Mission 70 Bridging the Divide, where at various points during the climb, motivators will share inspiring stories and mentor the students. On completion of the climb, the students would continue to be mentored for three years, during which 49 RCBB members and various motivators would meet up with the students every six months. RCBB president Yap Fatt Lam said the objective of the programme was to inculcate a positive and healthy lifestyle among the youth, in addition to transforming them into responsible and successful individuals with physical and mental strength to overcome the challenges in life. Our objective is to make each of the 21 youths a champion. There will be an intensive mentoring session before the climb. This will be followed with three years of coaching and mentoring sessions to monitor their individual progress, he said. The programme is headed by a professional team led by a specialist in motivational and outdoor activities, Ong Hock Siew as well as Khoo Swee Chiow, who has conquered Mount Everest 63 times, and who will be the ambassador for the climb. Ong will lead the climb and conduct the motivational and training sessions along the trail. The entire climb will be a classroom in the skies where Ong will relate life's challenges to the youths and why these should be viewed in a positive light, he said. Tunku Naquiyuddin said the programme would help instil strength, courage and determination in the youths to overcome problems. Montfort Boys Town director Brother John Albert said they were grateful that the students were chosen for the programme.