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# Climbing mission to transform the youths

**Neil Chan**

KOTA KINABALU: Rotary Club Bukit Bintang (RCBB) aims to help transform over 20 challenged youths and students during their mission to climb up Mount Kinabalu.

According to RCBB President and organising chairman Yap Fatt Lam, their programme 'RCBB Mission 70 - Bridging the Divide' is a youth mentoring transformation programme for 23 underprivileged and challenged youths from Montfort Boys Town and students from UniKL Business School.

"There will be 23 selected youths and the remainder are climbing participants from different Rotary clubs and Rotary friends both from Malaysia and overseas making up to 70 participants, hence the 'RCBB 70' title. In addition, we also have media crews and trainers accompanying them as well leading to a total of 78 climbers.

"This youth transformation programme which culminates with climbing Mount Kinabalu (June 15-19) involves coaching and mentoring by professional

Outdoor and Motivation Specialists with Rotarians which aims to help transform 23 selected youths into future great leaders with a successful mindset, 'heartset' for team spirit and winning mentality."

He said this during a press conference hosted by Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu South at the Sabah Golf and Country Club, here, Saturday.

"The transformation will not only be for the youths but all the participants as well. For your information we will have participants from five countries as well who will be climbing the mountain tomorrow."

He explained further that the youth transformation programme is an International Charity Project involving eight countries i.e. Japan, Nepal, Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia and

involving seven Rotary International Districts with a total number of 16 Rotary clubs.

"There will also be a 'Classroom in the Skies' where motivational seminars

and talks there will be for the 23 youths along the trail during the climb. They will also have three years of monitoring by professional and entrepreneur coaches and mentors including a climbing ambassador Khoo Swee Chiow who has climbed Mount Everest four times and Climb Leader Ong Hock Siew who has climbed Mt Kinabalu 63 times.

"Our royal patron, Tunku Naquiyuddin Ibni Almarhum

Tuanku Ja'afar, was unable to make it for this climb but has sent his son Tunku Mohamed Alauddin in his place to do so."

He said the group will be heading immediately to Kundasang and tomorrow they will already start climbing. On June 17, they will reach the peak and be back down on June 18 to KK for the celebration night with the theme "Champion Night".

The climbing mission has been sponsored by many caring individuals and corporation with TV3 as official partner providing media coverage for the climb and Malindo as their official airline sponsor



Yap (middle row, 6th from right), Tunku Mohamed (middle row, 5th from right) and Ong (middle row, 4th from right) with the youths and UniKL students: