Fruitful outing for Sabah archers

By Arfandi Jaafar

KOTA KINABALU: It was a fruitful outing for Sabah archers at the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Open Tournament in Sintok, Kedah, last week.

They bagged three gold, three silver and three bronze medals to return home with heads held high from the five-day competition.

Team manager, Clarence Udan said Sabah archers did well to compete with the country’s top brass and the medals won signaled their prowess in the Compound Olympic Round events.

Sabah won gold in the Men’s Team, Men’s Individual and Mixed Team Compound.

Senior archer, Lee Kin Lip played a hand in all three hauls. The SEA Games archer from Tawau was joined by Wong Co Wan and Mecedger Sage Edie in the Men’s Team. They beat a team from Nadi Archery in a thrilling final, while Armed Forces and Perak shared the bronze.

Lee also won the Individual title after edging Nadi Archery’s Mohd Kaharudin Ashah in the final. Juwaidi Marzuki also from Nadi Archery claimed the bronze.

In the Mixed Team, Lee partnered former national champion, Fatin Nur Fatehah Mat Salleh to capture the gold. Together they beat the Armed Forces in the final, while Nadi Archery and UiTM finished in joint third place.

Fatin also won silver in the Women’s Individual Compound and in the Overall Events.

She edged teammate and budding talent Alyssa Edmond in third place in the Individual Compound, while Saritha Cham Nong from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) won the gold. Fatin played the bridesmaid role to Saritha again in the Overall Events, while Norizah Ishak (Armed Forces) and Yee Shen Fong (Perak) won the bronze.

Sahib’s Roniza Syafiqah Ronnie and Diana Tsun Mei Fung contented in fifth and sixth place respectively.

The Malaysia Games-bound archers won the other silver for Sabah. They were joined by Camilly Cynthia Louis in the Women’s Team Compound.

Archers from UiTM won the gold, while Sarawak and Armed Forces took the bronze.

Ahmad Afiq Akhiroman and Caroline Fred won bronze in the Mixed Team Recurve, while the other bronze for Sabah came from Lee Kin Lip in the Men’s Overall Events.

“On the whole, I think our archers did really well in this tournament. They competed against some of the country’s best and they showed good promise especially in the compound events.

“Some of our younger archers also showed good potential. We have one more tournament, which is the UPM Open in Serdang, Selangor (May 7-12) but I think they are ready to shine in Perlis (Sukma, May 24-June 4),” said Clarence.

Sabah Archery Association secretary-general and head coach, Paul Leong also joined the trip to Sintok.
Lee Kin Lip (3rd right) and Fatin Nurfatehah Mat Salleh (4th right) together with the Mixed Team Compound finalists. Also in the picture are Clarence (left) and Paul (right).