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Factory started with just RM500

Pritam Singh

WITH only RM500 but loads of determination and a burning desire to succeed, three enterprising youths ventured into the pottery handicraft industry.

In 1986, Anuar Hassan (then 21), Zainal Idris (19) and Yusri Hitam (20) set up a pottery factory called Temin Kraf next to their homes in Kampung Temin, a village at Km6 Jalan Jerantut-Temerloh.

Initially, there were difficult times, and though Yusri is no more a part of the team, Anuar and Zainal have not looked back. If anything, they are happy to have ventured into making clay pottery.

Among the dignitaries who have seen their demonstrations are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Sultan of Pahang and former Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

"We only had RM500 to start with," recalled Anuar who, together with Zainal, are graduates of the Institut Teknologi Mara (now Universiti Teknologi Mara).

"But with our passion for making handicraft coupled with lots of determination and encouragement from friends, we decided to start the claypot factory in our village.

"The name Temin Kraf seemed most appropriate as the three of us are from Kampung Temin," he added.

According to Anuar, the Community Development Department provided some of the machinery under the Small-scale Industries Assistance Scheme.

Kemin Kraf produces items such as water containers, earthenware jars, ash trays, vases, pencil containers, souvenirs and other paraphernalia.

Besides supplying their products to Pahang Kraftangan in Kuantan and Kuala Lumpur, the items are also sold at hotels in tourist destinations such as Pulau Tioman, Cherating and Pulau Langkawi.

"We have also been invited to hold exhibitions and demonstrations at school expos," he said.

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