

Programme to encourage UMS students to read

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KOTA KINABALU: Reading culture is not that popular among Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) undergraduates.

At least that was among the complaints its vice chancellor, Datuk Seri Panglima Professor Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, received from the lecturers.

Realising this, UMS took the initiative to inculcate the reading habit amongst its students through the 1Malaysia Book Voucher programme, which was officially launched yesterday.

"The RM200 book voucher is presented in four pieces, each attached with different serial numbers. This is to monitor that students do not spend beyond the permitted amount.

"It is my hope that the voucher would be put to good use, such as buying educational materials," said Kamaruzaman in his speech.

The voucher, he explained, is distributed amongst active full-time and part-time students between January and March this year. They are required to collect the vouchers before March 31.

On a different note, Kamaruzaman also urged the undergraduates to inculcate several values such as communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving, teamwork, sustainable learning and information management, entrepreneurship, morale and professional etiquettes, and leadership.

"These soft skills will help to mould the students to be competitive and good, while shaping them to be Malaysians who are able to contribute to the nation when they have completed their studies," he said.

He added that in UMS, first and final year



Kamaruzaman (second left) presenting the RM200 1Malaysia Book Voucher to one of the recipients yesterday.

undergraduates are required to fill in a survey form to monitor the students' progress.

"However, there is still lack of cooperation from the first year students based on last year's result as only 17

per cent from the targeted 80 per cent did their part to fill in the survey form, while as for the final year students, the number exceeded by six per cent from the targeted 80 per cent.