



Dr Rahman (left) registering for work yesterday.

# UMS hires its first disabled lecturer

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) created history when it hired a disabled lecturer as part of its staff on Wednesday.

Johor-born Prof. Madya Dr A. Rahman Tang Abdullah, who is visually impaired, would be teaching at the School of Social Science.

His son accompanied the history buff when he reported for work here.

When met, he thanked UMS for accepting his job application and said he felt really lucky despite his disability.

"The offer will enable me to continue my aspiration in providing my service to the people.

"This is also in line with my wish to enhance my knowledge and to conduct research on the history of Borneo Island, especially Sabah and Sarawak," he said.

Rahman is an expert in Malaysian history.

Even though this is his first time in the Land Below the Wind, he is already attracted to Sabah that has been described as a dynamic place with many attractions that are beyond his expectations.

When asked about the disabled in the country, he said those in a similar predicament as him should be constantly aware and pro-active in following current development.

"We must admit that the world is not created for one group only. Hence, we must follow the development and be proactive in finding our own role," he said.

However, he said the disabled also needed attention from the local society.

"We also need the people's empathy so that they would understand our situation.

"That is what we need and not sympathy on our disability," he said.

Prior to this, he worked for 18 years with Universiti Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIA).

He started his career as a tutor at Universiti Malaya in 1992 before working as a lecturer at UIA a year later.

His visual impairment did not stop him from acquiring a Masters degree and Doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.