

# UMS to spend more on publication

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is going to spend more on publication efforts as it is in line with its aspiration to become a research university.

UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon said yesterday that they would give full support to the effort to increase the university's publications in terms of funding.

The university has set aside RM800,000 per annum to fund such efforts and Kamaruzaman said that the amount would be increased.

Publication works at the university began in 2004 and to date, over 200 works by researchers at UMS have been published.

The latest UMS publication entitled 'Perarakan Berjubah Graduan di Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu' by Mahmud Sudin, has garnered national recognition after winning a category at the National Book Award.

One of UMS publications that is gaining popularity internationally is the Asian Mymecology by the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation.

Last year, UMS published 13

new books.

Kamaruzaman also said that UMS is still a young university and it will take some time for it to be experienced in publishing the works of its researchers.

"We are only 17 years (old), and it will take some time to create this culture. Our researchers are still too young. It will take some time for them to write more books," he said to reporters at the launch of the UMS Book Festival 2012 yesterday.

In his speech, the vice chancellor urged the UMS community to adopt a reading habit.

He said they did not have any excuse to not read as it was a cheap hobby.

"As an IPT (higher learning institute), we encourage our students and employees to read; reading provides knowledge, hence its importance," Kamaruzaman said.

He added that it is now compulsory for all UMS employees to adopt the reading habit as well as keeping physically fit.

Kamaruzaman mentioned that a study conducted by the National Library in 2010 showed that

Malaysians read between eight and 10 books per annum.

"This is small if we were to compare with developed nations such as Japan, South Korea and other western countries."

He added that the government had realised this and had provided incentives for people to adopt the reading habit. Among the incentives are tax exemption of up to RM1,000 for the purchase of books and the recent RM200 government assistance for students of higher learning institutes to buy books.