

UMS graduates increase by 200 percent

By John Tambanan

KOTAKINABALU: The number of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students graduating during this year's Tamu Gadang will increase by about 200 percent compared to the first festival held in 1999.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Professor Dr Abu Hassan Othman said a total of 2,227 graduates would receive their scrolls during the two-day sixth convocation to be held at the newly completed Chancellor Hall starting on Sept 12.

There were only 226 graduates during the first Tamu Gadang held on Sept 7, 1999 and now the figure has risen to 2,227 graduates, Abu Hassan said at the launch of the festival here by Head of State Tun Ahmadshah Abdullah in conjunction with the university's sixth convocation and 10th anniversary celebration.

He noted that the UMS' achievement today was due to the strong support and assistance from the Government that had enabled the university to provide tertiary education and churn out more graduates to meet the demand for professional and knowledgeable workers in the country.

In this regard, Abu Hassan



OFFICIATING... Ahmadshah beating the gong to officially launch the Tamu Gadang while Abu Hassan (left) looks on.

assured that UMS would continue to strive in achieving excellence in various fields from the aspect of students and staff development, academic, research and also the physical development of the campus.

"In terms of academic development, we will continue to add value to the courses and study

programmes in ensuring that they are market-driven," he stressed.

UMS students also excelled in sports and co-curriculum activities, said Abu Hassan, citing the achievement of the UMS' debate team who emerged as the champion of the Premier Debate competition involving 17 institutions of higher learning last year.