



Arifin (centre) witnessing the exchange of documents between Yahya (third left) and Kassim (third right).

# MUIS, UMS to overcome shortage of Islamic education teachers

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UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Sabah Islamic Religious Council (MUIS) has established a strategic partnership with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to overcome the shortage of Islamic education teachers in the state.

Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif said the policy of 90 per cent local teachers and 10 per cent foreign teachers teaching in Sabah (90:10) which was set before has not yet reached its target.

"MUIS is currently actively producing more Islamic education teachers in the state due to the shortage of teaching staff.

"Therefore, we have entered into a Memorandum of

Agreement (MoA) with UMS to meet the demand.

"It is certain that, with this collaboration, we will be able to produce graduates or those with knowledge in the field of education," he said during the MUIS breaking fast and the Graduate Diploma Program (DPLI) MoA signing ceremony between MUIS and UMS, on Tuesday night.

Arifin, who is also the Education and Religion Exco, also informed that for a start, a total of 40 students will be selected from DPLI programme which will be held for a year and a half.

Through the MoA, the parties involved agreed to allocate a total of 20 students in the UMS DPLI as part-time teachers at

the Sabah State Islamic Religious Affairs Department (JHEAINS).

Meanwhile, the other 20 students are open to prospective undergraduate post-graduate students who are eligible to participate in the program according to their requirements.

Also present at the event were MUIS chairman Datuk Seri Panglima Yahya Hussin, UMS vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kassim Mansur, State Mufti Datuk Bungsu @ Aziz Jaafar, State Attorney-General Datuk Nor Asiah Mohd Yusof, JHEAINS director Jumain Abdul Ghani, United Sabah Islamic Association (USIA) chairman Datuk Sapawi Ahmad and MUIS deputy chairman Datuk Malai Ali Malai Ahmad.