

Musa: Govt ready to cooperate with varsities on R&D of natural resources

KOTA KINABALU: The state government is prepared to cooperate with any local or foreign universities that wish to conduct research and development (R&D) on the potential of Sabah's natural resources.

Disclosing this yesterday Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said a lot of natural resources could be explored for economic development to benefit the government and people.

Sabah, he said has vast land and forest area as well as deep waters.

"Among places that local and foreign universities are interested to do research are the Danum Valley and Maliau Basin," he said at a gathering attended by university deputy vice chancellors, deputy rectors and principals from throughout the country at a leading hotel here yesterday.

Musa who is also Finance Minister, said the government appreciated the role of higher learning institutions in producing graduates who were knowledgeable and skillful.

He added that realising the importance of human resource development as an important national asset, the universities should also focus on the thinking of students so that they would better understand the efforts being made by the government for the benefit of the people.

"It is also hoped that graduates are

not easily influenced by negative elements from outside that can affect their understanding of the contributions of the government toward education development and progress for the nation and people," he said.

The Chief Minister went on saying that graduates could assess what the goodness of the government which was striving to help the people so that they could enjoy comfortable lives through infrastructure development and harmony continuously.

He added that graduates must also be informed about the efforts being made by the government to ensure economic stability and racial harmony toward the creation of a progressive Malaysian people.

According to Musa, the existing cooperation between the government and universities must continue for the sake of mutual benefit.

The gathering yesterday was in conjunction with a workshop for higher learning institutions in Malaysia hosted by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Among those present were UMS deputy vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin, Prof Datuk Dr Abdullah Al-Hadi Haji Muhamed (UPM), Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Razali Agus (UM), Prof Madya Dr Amimudin Yusof (UKM) and Prof Madya Dr Kamaruzaman Mohasmad (USM).



Musa receiving a souvenir from a university representative. Looking on are Dr. Mohd Noh (third left) and Dr. Abdullah (right).