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New intake ups UMS students to 8,220



New undergraduates registering at the UMS main campus in Likas Bay on Friday.

By NASHIR MANSOR

KOTA KINABALU: A total of 3,102 new undergraduates have enrolled with University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to pursue studies under 57 programmes through 11 schools.

Of the number, 2,481 were registered at the main campus in Likas Bay here, while the rest at its Labuan International Campus (*Kampus Antarabangsa Labuan*).

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Abu Hassan Othman told reporters here Friday that the latest intake had increased the total student population to 8,220.

Beginning this year, the university would commence new courses in Sports Science (*Sains Sukan*) under School of Education and Social Development, and

Forest Plantation and Forestry (*Perladangan Hutan dan Perhutani*).

In addition, a total of 510 post-graduate students had enrolled for studies in various disciplines, with 463 of them taking Masters degree while the remaining 47 the PhD.

The favourite subjects pursued are Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Masters in Education – Teaching English as Second Language (TESL) and Masters in Education Management.

Abu Hassan also disclosed that Phase 1B of the UMS main campus, costing RM278 million, was nearing completion.

The project includes the construction of the School of Education and Social Development, Tropical Biology Institute

and Preservation, Marine Borneo Research Institute, Library, Students Service Centre, Health Centre and a mosque.

Phase 2A and 2B of the main project involving RM410 million is expected to commence soon.

Phase 2A involves the construction of the main hall, School of Physiology and Social Works, School of International Tropical Forestry and Student Service Centre while Phase 2B involves the construction of the Multimedia Centre, Closed Stadium, playing field and students' hostels.

Meanwhile, most of the students interviewed were happy at being given the opportunity to pursue tertiary education in Sabah.

Tay Leng Lee, 22, from Pasir Mas, Kelantan, who is pursuing her first degree in Marketing, said she was thrilled at having received an offer letter from UMS, adding that she did not foresee any problem studying in Sabah.

A former Politeknik Kota Baru student, she joins her elder sister Ley Suan, 23, who had been offered a similar opportunity, but in Hotel Management.

Another student, Nicolas Chu, 19, from Selangor, who is taking Mechanical Engineering, likened studying in Sabah as going overseas, saying the local climate here is cooler than that in the Klang Valley.

Nicolas selected UMS as his first choice of tertiary education, where he will spend the next four years.