

'Govt committed to strengthening education, its infrastructure'

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KOTA KINABALU: The state government remains committed to enhancing the development of education and its infrastructure to produce high-quality, skilled and competitive human capital.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor stated that developing human capital is a priority to prepare leaders who will shape the future of the region.

He emphasised that only quality education can improve the people's living standards, ultimately contributing to the success and excellence of the nation.

"We do not want anyone to be left behind in accessing education. Therefore, the state government consistently ensures our children can continue their studies to higher levels through various initiatives covering all stages from primary, secondary

to higher education institutions," he said.

Hajiji made these remarks during the Oath and Pledge Ceremony for the 30th Familiarization Week Session 2024/2025 at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on Tuesday.

He noted that since 1967, a total of 121,897 students have benefited from the education assistance initiatives, amounting to RM868 million.

For the first time this year, the government has provided flight ticket subsidies through the Subsidi Graduan Rindu Sabah, amounting to RM600 per person for all Sabah students studying in Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Labuan last March, with an allocation of over RM10 million.

He also said the Sabah State Government Scholarship had been increased from RM55

million to RM101 million.

Hajiji stated that he had launched the Sabah Education Sponsorship Portal (PTPS) — a new initiative under the Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) direction — to empower and facilitate assistance for Sabah children, especially at the higher education level, through collaborations with main sponsors and education assistance providers in the state.

He added that the government and the people of Sabah are proud of UMS's current achievements, which have helped drive transformation in the state across various aspects and have made it a reference center, especially in Sabah.

As Pro Chancellor of UMS, he urged the university to continue creating a higher education environment that serves as an excellent knowledge center

and produces competitive and innovative graduates to meet the skilled workforce needs of the country and the state.

"Therefore, higher education institutions, including UMS, are encouraged to strengthen collaboration with industry players in research, development, commercialisation and innovation activities," he said.

Hajiji also urged UMS students to adhere to all campus regulations, prioritise their responsibilities as students, strive diligently to become excellent individuals, and utilize the knowledge gained in university to contribute to society and the nation.

Also present at the ceremony were UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor and chairman of UMS Board of Directors, Datuk Seri Panglima Abdul Rahman Dahlan.