

UMS launches Satellite Sports Science Centre

TBP 30.08.2025 P. 2

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has officially launched the Satellite Centre of the National Sports Institute (ISN), in tandem with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the two institutions, a landmark collaboration aimed at elevating sports science development in Sabah and the wider Borneo region.

Speaking during the joint launch and signing ceremony, UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said the occasion represents far more than a ceremonial gesture, it marks a strategic turning point in the future of sports innovation and athlete development in East Malaysia.

"This partnership solidifies the growing synergy between UMS and a national-level agency, united in realising the nation's sports development agenda based on knowledge, innovation and technology," he said.

Held ahead of National Day celebration on Aug 31, the event, he said, also echoed the aspirations of Malaysia Madani, emphasising care for the people and unity in diversity.

"Independence is not just about revisiting history, it is about translating that spirit into our efforts to develop a healthy, dynamic and globally competitive society," he added.

UMS has long played a pioneering role as The Brain of Borneo, committed to generating and disseminating knowledge

for the benefit of communities, particularly in the field of sports science.

Dr Kasim noted that the journey towards today's launch began in 2002, with the establishment of the university's first sports science laboratory and gymnasium.

In 2018, these facilities were upgraded into the Physical Fitness Rehab Centre (PFRC), encompassing three core units: a gymnasium, an exercise physiology clinic, and a human physiology lab, all supporting the rehabilitation and fitness monitoring of local athletes.

This long-standing dedication to athlete development, he said, reflects the university's continuous commitment to sports performance and wellness in the region.

Dr Kasim also highlighted the institutional transformation of the Faculty of Education and Sports Studies (FPPS), formerly known as the School of Education and Social Development, and later the Faculty of Psychology and Education in 2014.

Since 14 September 2024, the faculty has been rebranded to reflect its dual mandate in both education and sports science, a move Dr Kasim said underscores UMS's ambition to become a regional hub for academic excellence in sports-related fields.

"The presence of the ISN Satellite Centre on campus further strengthens this aspiration," he said.

The newly launched Satellite Centre, according to Dr Kasim,

will serve as a platform for advanced research, technical support, and the application of sports science benefiting athletes, coaches and stakeholders across the sports ecosystem.

"This centre will anchor evidence-based research in coaching, talent identification, sports physiology, nutrition, biomechanics, rehabilitation, athlete performance and technology," he added.

The facility is also expected to become a key reference centre in Borneo for scientific services, athlete support, and capacity-building programmes targeting coaches, athletes and university students alike.

He expressed optimism that the collaboration would result in more locally trained experts and strengthen the ecosystem for high-performance sports in Sabah.

Reflecting on recent achievements, Dr Kasim congratulated the Sabah contingent for emerging overall champions in the 2025 MSSM Athletics Championship.

"This achievement proves that Sabah has immense young talent that can be nurtured to reach elite levels," he said.

He also praised UMS student-athletes for their accomplishments on the international stage in athletics, rugby, and e-sports, adding that such success stories prove that with the right scientific support and infrastructure, Sabah is capable of becoming a national sporting powerhouse.



Dr Kasim visiting the Satellite Centre of the National Sports Institute.