

UMS special needs students draw strength from sacrifice, support

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KOTA KINABALU: The determination of a new Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) student, born with health complications, has turned the sacrifices of his parents and the dedication of doctors who once saved his life into his greatest source of inspiration to pursue higher education.

Ikhwan Al Muntadzir Abdul Muldjamil, 19, a student at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FPSK), was born with a medical condition that required colostomy surgery immediately after birth.

Since then, he has had to undergo regular treatments and live a routine very different from that of his peers.

However, these challenges never weakened his resolve. Instead, his life experiences, closely linked to the medical field, nurtured a strong ambition to one day repay the doctors who treated him.

"If it was not for the efforts and expertise of the doctors since the day I was born, I might not be here today. That is why my ambition is to complete my studies and serve in hospitals, so that I too can help save the lives of others," he said.

He shared this when met after the oath-taking ceremony held in conjunction with the 2025/2026 Academic Orientation Week for new students.

Ikhwan also acknowledged that the unwavering support



Ikhwan Al
Muntadzir
Abdul
Muldjamil

of his parents — who patiently travelled back and forth to Kota Kinabalu for his treatments since childhood — has been his biggest motivation to succeed.

He further expressed appreciation for the facilities provided by UMS, especially for students with special needs.

"Physical limitations are not an excuse to give up, but instead a driving force to contribute to the healthcare field. I want to repay the sacrifices I once received, not only to the doctors, but also to society," he added.

The sacrifice of a single mother has also become a source of strength for Michael Lovinon Moosom, a 19-year-old student with learning disabilities (OKU), to continue his studies in Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering (FKJ), UMS.

The young man from Penampang who was diagnosed as a slow learner, shared that his mother had sacrificed a great deal to ensure that he and his siblings received proper education.

"My mother has been raising us



Michael
Lovinon
Moosom

alone for more than 10 years. She worked tirelessly to provide us with our needs, including food, shelter and education," he said.

Michael said that his status as a student with learning disabilities is not a barrier in life, but rather a challenge that motivates him to become more independent.

He also expressed his gratitude to the university for the facilities and support provided to students with special needs.

"I am truly grateful for the facilities provided by UMS for students like us. I am also thankful for the warm welcome from the UMS community, including the lecturers, as well as having peers who are understanding.

"With perseverance, guidance and support from all parties, I believe students with disabilities like me will not feel left out and will be able to complete our studies successfully," he added.

Michael is among 11 students with disabilities offered admission to UMS in this year's new intake.