

Musa urges UMS graduates to uphold ethics, innovation and unity

TBP 29.11.2025 P.12

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Chancellor Tun Musa Aman called on the institution's latest cohort of graduates to embrace lifelong learning, uphold ethical conduct and contribute meaningfully to society as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

Delivering his address at the 27th UMS Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2025 on Friday, Musa reminded graduates that the event was more than a formal conferral of degrees, but a culmination of perseverance, sacrifice and resilience throughout their academic journey.

The ceremony was attended by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, UMS Board of Directors chairman Datuk Seri Panglima Abdul Rahman Dahlan and UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor.

Musa noted that behind every graduate stood parents and family members who had offered unwavering support, prayers and encouragement. He extended his

appreciation to UMS lecturers and academic staff whose dedication and commitment formed the foundation of students' success. Their role, he said, remained "essential to the achievements of the graduates".

He added that graduates should take pride in earning their qualifications from a university that continues to strengthen its standing both nationally and internationally. UMS, widely known as 'The Brain of Borneo', has cemented its role as a centre of education and research contributing to the development of Sabah, Borneo and the nation as a whole.

Musa highlighted the university's progress in research, emphasising that sustained efforts had yielded encouraging results. In 2024 alone, UMS secured significant research grants reflecting confidence in its capacity for innovation and academic advancement.

He noted that the Sabah Government had allocated RM6.5 million to support research



Musa delivering his speech at the 27th UMS Convocation Ceremony.

projects and the establishment of special academic chairs aimed at elevating studies in local culture and science. This, he said, demonstrated the State Government's trust in UMS' ability to strengthen sustainable

development and enhance teaching and learning quality.

Congratulating all graduates, Musa acknowledged the experiences and lessons they had gained beyond classroom learning. The degrees they

earned, he added, symbolised perseverance, commitment and a determination to continually grow, especially in fields related to technology, economics and social sciences.

"Learning does not end here," he reminded the graduates, urging them to remain adaptable in a rapidly changing world that demands ethical, creative and responsible individuals.

Musa encouraged graduates to harness their creativity to generate positive impact, whether through technological innovation, community engagement or initiatives to preserve cultural heritage. He also advised them to use digital and social media platforms wisely and ethically, promoting knowledge, positive narratives and respect for personal and institutional dignity.

He further expressed hope that UMS alumni would continue to serve as ambassadors of unity and harmony, especially in multicultural Sabah.

Respect for diversity, he said,

remained crucial for shared progress and social cohesion.

As future professionals, Musa urged graduates to contribute their skills and expertise to state and national development. This, he said, would reflect their appreciation for UMS and reciprocate the State Government's support in providing research opportunities, placements and avenues for human capital development.

Towards the end of his speech, Musa briefly addressed the restructuring of official university events and academic activities. He explained that the date adjustment for the convocation ceremony was part of operational management improvements undertaken by the university administration.

He assured graduates and parents that UMS had weighed various factors to ensure a "win-win" outcome for all parties involved, underscoring the institution's commitment to transparency, responsibility and efficiency.