

An array of UMS diploma programmes

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will offer diploma programmes in various disciplines in the coming 2007-2008 academic session.

Its vice chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Noh Dalimin said the programme would provide an opportunity for tutors and those in the public sector to further their studies to the tertiary level.

"In the field of research and innovation, there will be focus on research and development in the economy of the state," he said.

Citing an example, the Tropical Biology Conservation Institute, Borneo

Marine Institute and Biotechnology Research Institute have done several studies to help improve the socio-economic standards of people in Sabah through the introduction of techniques in agriculture and harvesting of forest resources.

He said in the field of education, family and health, UMS has set up the Rural Education Centre and Counselling Services as well as implement community service programmes.

Dr Mohd Noh also mentioned issues affecting graduates such as their inability to compete in the employment market and the rate of unemployed graduates.

"Some of the weakness-

es that have been identified are their lack of communication skills in particular their command of the English language, poor general knowledge, incompetence in Information Technology and lack of self-confidence," he said.

He said UMS would therefore take several proactive measures to ensure the university's graduates are also equipped with "soft skills" and generic skills that consist of language competence, general knowledge, communication skills, IT skills and self-confidence.

Dr Mohd Noh believed that these skills acquired at UMS would help make graduates more "marketable" for employment.



Happy graduates pose for pixmen after receiving their scrolls yesterday.