

UMS unveils 'Brain of Borneo' strategic vision

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Sabah (UMS)

launched its strategic

vision for the

year themed "The

Brain of Borneo",

marking a new

phase in its trans-

formation into a

values-based, integrity-centred institu-

tion with global impact.

"This initiative reflects UMS' commit-

ment to strengthening its position as a

leading intellectual authority in Borneo

while expanding its role as a respected

strategic partner," said Vice-Chancellor

Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor during his

address on Friday.

He introduced B.R.A.I.N as the univer-

sity's shared core values and B.O.R.N.E.O

as its comprehensive transformation

roadmap.

B.R.A.I.N represents five guiding prin-

ciples — beneficent, resilient, authentic,

inclusive and nurture. Kasim explained

that being beneficent means delivering

tangible societal benefits through

knowledge and research, while

resilience ensures the university

remains competitive and adaptable in a

changing landscape.

"To be authentic is to preserve Bor-

neo's identity and indigenous wisdom,

and inclusivity means upholding diver-

sity and ensuring equal opportunities

for all stakeholders. UMS also aims to

nurture talent and potential through

knowledge, innovation and creativity.

"These values are not merely slogans

but serve as the foundation for work cul-

ture, leadership and collective unity

within the university," he said.

Under the "Brain of Borneo" vision,

Kasim outlined six strategic B.O.R.N.E.O

frameworks: brilliant talents, outstand-

ing academia and professionals, revolu-

tionary research, notable visibility,

exemplary leadership and governance,

and operational sustainability.

He said the "brilliant talents" pillar

focuses on strengthening human capital

and grooming future leaders, including

the development of student start-up

companies, expansion of micro-creden-



tials and flexible learning pathways, as well as maintaining a student dropout rate below three per cent.

For "outstanding academia and professionals", he noted that 107 out of 115 academic programmes offered by UMS had successfully maintained full accreditation over the past year, reflecting the institution's commitment to delivering education that meets and exceeds national quality standards.

Kasim added that "revolutionary research" centres on driving high-impact research in areas such as planetary health, food security and community development, including initiatives like EcoFarm and UniMADANI that translate research into practical solutions.

Through "notable visibility", UMS aims to strengthen its knowledge diplomacy via international articulation models and Borneo edutourism mobility programmes, positioning the university as a gateway to the region's intellectual and cultural landscape.

He stressed that UMS enforces a zero-tolerance policy against corruption, falsification, abuse of power and ethical violations to reinforce a strong culture of integrity.

At the same time, the university is committed to enhancing operational sustainability by reducing operating expenditure by at least two per cent annually to strengthen financial discipline.

Dr Kasim also announced that the university's teaching hospital is scheduled to commence professional operations with outpatient services in April this year.

"This teaching hospital is not merely a treatment facility; it integrates education, research and service. It will become a strategic and sustainable asset not only for the university but for Sabah and the wider Borneo region," he said.

He emphasised that UMS is prepared to lead future discourse in biodiversity, planetary health, food security, innovative education and exemplary governance.

"The Brain of Borneo is both a moral and strategic responsibility — to lead with knowledge, act with integrity and serve with compassion," he said.