



09 APR, 2026

UMS hosts Romanian envoy for diplomacy talk

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



Page 1 of 2



Kasim (left) presents a token of appreciation to Nineta.

UMS hosts Romanian envoy for diplomacy talk

Stefyanie Myla Micheal

KOTA KINABALU: At a time when global tensions, from the Middle East to shifting power dynamics in Europe, are reshaping international relations, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has positioned itself as a critical platform for diplomatic discourse, hosting Romanian Ambassador Nineta Bărbulescu in a high-level academic engagement.

The International Relations Ambassador Talk, organised by UMS' Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), brought students and academics face-to-face with real-world diplomacy, offering insights that extend beyond textbooks into the evolving realities of global politics.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor described the session as a "significant and meaningful initiative," highlighting the rare opportunity for the academic community to directly engage with an experienced diplomat.

"Today's session is especially valuable with the presence of Nineta Bărbulescu, whose extensive experience and perspectives will undoubtedly deepen our understanding of global diplomacy," he said in his welcoming address.

Kasim noted that programmes under FSSK, including International Relations, History, Geography, Communication, Industrial Relations, Sociology, and Anthropology, play a vital role in nurturing critical thinking and global awareness among students. He added that Sabah's rich cultural diversity provides a strong foundation for students to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

Positioning UMS as more than a regional institution, Kasim emphasised its growing role as a knowledge hub not only in Borneo but also on the international stage.

Touching on current affairs, he pointed to ongoing developments involving Iran as an example of how regional tensions can have far-reaching global implications, particularly in economic stability and security.

Against this backdrop, Bărbulescu's presence offered a timely European perspective. In her lecture, she shared insights into Romania's foreign policy trajectory following the early 1990s Romanian Revolution, as well as broader international developments from a European standpoint.

She stressed the importance of dialogue, mutual understanding, and strategic alliances in navigating an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

The ambassador also expressed hope that such engagements would continue to strengthen diplomatic ties and educational cooperation between Malaysia and Romania.

Also present were FSSK Dean Professor Dr Asmady Idris, Director of the Centre for Internationalisation and Global Engagement Associate Professor Dr Wardatul Akmal Din, and Director of the Corporate Communications Centre Dr Rizal Zamani Idris.



09 APR, 2026

UMS hosts Romanian envoy for diplomacy talk

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



SUMMARIES

Stefyanie Myla Micheal KOTA KINABALU: At a time when global tensions, from the Middle East to shifting power dynamics in Europe, are reshaping international relations, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has positioned itself as a critical platform for diplomatic discourse, hosting Romanian Ambassador Nineta Barbulescu in a high-level academic engagement.