

All academic fields are equal in value – Jauteh

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KOTA KINABALU: Pursuing a degree in creative arts is no less significant than a career in law or medicine, Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Jauteh Dikun said. Speaking at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Wall of Fame programme, Jauteh emphasized that all academic fields are equal in value, urging students to expand their horizons rather than being confined by the labels of their qualifications.

"You are on equal footing with any other field," he said. "There is no difference in the academic value of what is studied; rather, it is about how that knowledge is utilised."

Jauteh noted that an arts education provides a versatile foundation for diverse career paths, challenging students to look beyond the literal boundaries of their degrees. To illustrate this, he used the metaphor about how a single raw material such as rice can be transformed into various products, such as cakes or noodles, depending on how it is processed.

"This mindset is vital for every student. You must be able to process the knowledge you have gained to create something more meaningful," he added.

Echoing this sentiment, the UMS Vice Chancellor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor, in a speech delivered at the event, stated that the success of arts alumni in the police force proves that the discipline is a "field of knowledge that shapes critical thinking and leadership through wisdom." Kasim highlighted that arts education fosters empathy and a deep understanding of human nature—traits that are essential for the police force, which serves as the "shield of the community."

"Arts education teaches us to understand the soul of society and creates a sensitivity toward the realities of life. These are the very values required in a policing profession that faces complex human challenges every day," Kasim said in his speech delivered by UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof Dr Raman Noordin

The Wall of Fame 2026 programme, organized by the UMS Arts Alumni Association (ASUMS), specifically honoured alumni who have transitioned into the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM).

The Vice Chancellor described the initiative as a symbol of the university's lasting pride in its graduates, particularly those who choose the path of national service. "When alumni succeed, the university shines. Their achievements send a message to the public that arts graduates can stand tall in any professional arena." Closing the ceremony, Jauteh reminded students that regardless of their academic background, ultimate success is dictated by character and discipline.

"The future is not built on excuses, but through action. If you want to be respected, guard your integrity. If you want to lead, learn to shoulder responsibility," he concluded. – Mohd Izham Bin Hashim



Jauteh (1st row, 6th from right), and Dr. Raman (first row, 7th from right), together with senior police officers and students at UMS recital hall last Thursday.