

DR HARUN NEW UMS VICE CHANCELLOR



By PAUL MU NST 19.06.2012 /
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KOTA KINABALU: Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah (pictured) has been appointed the new and fourth vice chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The 51-year-old, born in Kampung Gudon, Menggatal who is a professor at the School of Science and Technology, took over the helm from outgoing vice chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, 59, whose three-year tenure expired yesterday.

Dr Harun received his appointment letter and instrument (robe and vice chancellor cap) from Dr Kamaruzaman during a brief ceremony witnessed by registrar Datuk Abdullah Said.

The appointment effective yesterday was approved by the Ministry of Higher Education for a three-year term and can be extended for a year.

In his brief address, Dr Harun, only the second Sabahan to hold the post, said: "As vice chancellor I am shouldering a heavy responsibility and this is not an easy job as what many people think. I will pray for strength and support from everybody."

And, he also said when the time comes he would have to go and that he would not seek any extension.

Dr Harun meanwhile, urged his academic staff to work together as a team to bring the university to greater heights.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining harmony in the campus and called for all quarters to resolve

any misunderstanding.

Dr Harun, who was the dean of the School of Science and Technology from 2008 to July 31, 2011, also described Dr Kamaruzaman as a simple person.

"I first got to know him during an assignment in Germany."

He also recalled the former vice chancellor had offered him a ride in his car when he was waiting for his transport during the visit to Germany.

Meanwhile, Keningau born Dr Kamaruzaman, in his parting speech said he felt a sense of relief after handing over his post to Dr Harun.

"I am happy and it is not easy to be a vice chancellor," he admitted.

Dr Kamaruzaman added: "When I received my appointment letter (as vice chancellor) I was very happy and now I am very happy too to hand over the post."

He also said with the support from friends, he managed to overcome the challenges during his tenure as vice chancellor.

Dr Kamaruzaman also offered his profound apology to any of the academic staff who might had been affected by decisions he made in the past.

"We all work for UMS and the decisions I made are for the sake of the university," he added.

On his next move, Dr Kamaruzaman said he would take a rest and go for an excursion with loved ones after having worked for 33 years.

He also hinted he might be around to continue doing research work for the university.