



Dr Kamaruzaman (left) handing over documents to Dr Mohd Harun.

Second Sabahan appointed as UMS vice chancellor

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By Jenne Lajjun

KOTA KINABALU: Professor Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah has been appointed as the new vice chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Professor Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah from Kampung Gudon Menggatal, is the eldest son of Abdullah Mohammed and Normah Mat Wahid.

He is the second Sabahan appointed to the post of vice chancellor of UMS. The first Sabahan to hold the post was Professor Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, whom Dr Mohd Harun replaced.

The first UMS vice chancellor was Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Abu Hassan Othman from Negeri Sembilan, who held the post from 1994 to 2005, while the second one was Professor Datuk Dr Noh Dalimin (2005 to 2008), also a West Malaysian.

Dr Mohd Harun, 51, said he would do his best as the vice chancellor of UMS.

"I understand that the responsibility is a heavy one. But what's imperative is to move forward and we move together as a team," he said before receiving his duties from Kamaruzaman yesterday.

During his brief speech, he

also stressed on the importance of harmony and it is imperative in getting the university to forge forward.

Dr Kamaruzaman said in his speech that integrity is one of the key ingredients that is required to make UMS stronger.

"To support the growth of the university, we have to develop a system that is based on ethics and integrity," he said.

Dr Kamaruzaman added he was happy to relinquish the post of vice chancellor which he held for four years. He cited that being a vice chancellor was a heavy responsibility and not easy.

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Outgoing UMS VC Dr Kamaruzaman recalls heavy responsibility

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"The responsibility is very heavy. I remember the time when I first received the appointment letter. It was a happy occasion at that time. (But) Today is also a happy occasion because now, the heavy responsibility goes to the new VC (vice chancellor)," he said.

He noted that being a vice chancellor requires the support of fellow friends because it is not easy to implement all the jobs that are required.

"I came to Sabah because I wanted to be with UMS. We do this and that is because of UMS. Sometimes I based my decision on UMS and we have to be professional in our decision making. That's the reason why I am happy today that UMS has grown well and systematically as a proper system has been put in place to ensure UMS will grow in strength," he said.

Dr Kamaruzaman also said that the decisions he made when he was the vice chancellor might not have pleased everyone but they were made out of professionalism and for the benefit of the university.

"I am the third vice chancellor and Harun will be the fourth vice chancellor. And there will be many more vice chancellors after that. But what is the use of having more vice chancellor if the university is not developed to its prime?" he said.

He then congratulated Harun for the appointment by the Higher Education Minister and urged the UMS community to pledge their undivided support to the new vice chancellor.

On his part, Dr Kamaruzaman said he wanted to teach and conduct research with his students.

"Since 1995 until today, I have been under the management sector - give me free time. For 33 years I have been toiling and have never taken a single sabbatical day," he said.