

# Second Sabahan named UMS head

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KOTA KINABALU: Prof Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah has succeeded Datuk Dr Kamaruzzaman Ampon as Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), becoming the second Sabahan to be appointed to the post.

Dr Mohd Harun, from Menggatal, was Dean of UMS' School of Science and Technology from 2008 to July 31 last year. The 51-year-old said he would serve his new role at the university Monday for three years which could be extended for a year.

He urged academic staff to work as a team to bring the university to greater heights as well as maintain harmony in the campus.

"I am not important here and when the time comes, I will go and I will not seek an extension.

"As a Vice-Chancellor, I am shouldering a heavy responsibility and this is not an easy job as what many people see. I will pray for strength and support from everybody," he said.

Harun said he would focus on harmony during his three year term.

"If we are not in harmony, then we cannot move forward. I am given three years and these three years is the model to give our full contribution to the university. "What is important is that this university moves forward and we must move as a team," he said.

Dr Kamaruzzaman, in his farewell speech, said he felt a sense of relief after relinquishing his post, but acknowledged the support he gained from friends and staff for helping him overcome the challenges during his service.



Kamaruzzaman handing over to Harun (right) as UMS Registrar Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said (centre) looks on.

He was also glad that he could finally have some rest and spend time with his family after serving for 33 years. "But I will be around to continue doing research for the benefit of the university," he added.

He hoped his successor would always carry out his duties with integrity.

"To be a vice chancellor is not easy, it comes with heavy responsibility which needs support from fellow friends."

"As I said it's not easy and it needs support from fellow friends but choose the right friends, who are willing to work with full honesty," he said. He said since there is no use being a VC if the university is not good, integrity is important in decision-making and in administration matters. Kamaruzzaman held the position from June 2008 to June 2012.

Harun, 51, is a graduate of Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) and a recipient of the Association of Overseas Technical Scholarship in Japan, fellowship for New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation.

His started in 1980 as a civil servant at the State Urban and Regional Planning Department, before continuing his studies in 1981 under a State scholarship.

From 1987 to 1993, he served at the State Tourism, Culture and Environment Ministry as a Research Officer, before becoming a lecturer at UKM in 1995 and has published numerous international journals and is active in research studies in and out the country.