

# Research university status for UMS by 2013

**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) aims to achieve research university status by 2013.

Its vice chancellor, Brigadier General Datuk Seri Panglima Dr Kamaruzaman Ampon, said in order for the university to achieve this status, UMS must increase its student population, including post graduates in the years to come.

"Therefore, UMS always makes sure that all its amenities and facilities can enable our students to carry out studies and researches.

"So those who have chosen and were chosen to continue their Master's or Doctorate degrees in this university made a very smart choice and is in line

with our aspiration," he said.

Kamaruzaman said this in his speech while welcoming new post graduate students during a Student Pledge and Vice Chancellor Message Ceremony at the University's Recital Hall, yesterday.

"I urge all of you (post graduates) to fully utilize every chance and facility available here so that you may achieve successful results at the end of your courses and also help the university achieve its goal.

"UMS works very closely with the post graduate centre to encourage our lecturers to further their studies up to Ph.D level and also to help the university to have 75 per

cent of its lecturers to possess Doctorate degrees or equivalent," he said.

According to Kamaruzaman, in its efforts to achieve research university status, UMS will not compromise its students' academic quality.

The university takes great efforts in maintaining its academic quality by closely observing its students' performance, he said.

"This is proven through the rules and guidelines which have been and will be enforced as required by the Ministry of Higher Education," said Kamaruzaman.

He said UMS would also have several approaches to attract candidate students to further their studies in

UMS and ultimately increasing their post graduate population.

"One of the approaches is that UMS will provide a fund of RM1 million annually in awarding scholarships to qualified post graduates.

"Besides that, there are many other sponsorships offered through the cooperation of various parties.

"Currently, UMS has offered co-sponsored scholarships with the Ministry of Higher Education, Public Services Department and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry besides scholarships from the state government bodies, private sector and NGOs," said Kamaruzaman.