

19,000 UMS students to cast votes in campus election

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be conducting its campus election together with 15 other IPTAs in the country on September 25.

The nomination of candidates will be held on September 21, Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansur, UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Students Affairs and Alumni), told the Borneo Post yesterday.

"The campaigning period will be held for four days and polling

in the UMS campus here will take place at Dewan Kuliah Perdana between 8am and 5pm on September 25.

"The polls will be held concurrently with our campuses in Labuan and Sandakan," he said.

Dr Kasim said 19,000 students will be casting their votes to select 10 general candidates as well as 28 candidates to represent each school or faculty.

"This year, we will be using the

e-voting system and we shall have a committee to oversee the whole process and ensure it is conducted in a transparent manner.

"The system is good because it allows us to get the results within 45 minutes of the polls. The winning party would be able to form its cabinet within the same night," he said, adding that the system was introduced last year.

"Previously, the calculation was conducted manually, so it was really tedious and the results

came out very late.

"Now with this system, we can expect speedy results," he said.

On the students' protests seeking reforms to the campus election in Peninsular Malaysia, Dr Kasim said such demonstrations by students have not occurred at the UMS campus here and other branches.

He also said that the students in Peninsular Malaysia were probably acting in such a way because they have been influenced

by the opposition parties.

"Our culture in Sabah has always been different. We respect people. We don't conduct demonstrations. Whatever issues that need to be resolved, we address together," he said.

"The spirit of 1Malaysia has long existed in Sabah so there is no need for us to make so much noise. We can address matters in a professional manner. Our tradition has always been like that and we

will continue to do it in that way," he said.

He said UMS encourages its students to take part in the polls and execute their duties as citizens of the university.

"The reasons why we have the campus election is we want to create future leaders for the country. The students who would be nominated are those with good leadership skills who are good in addressing citizens of the campus," he said.