



Yunus and Amir lead Harun (centre) to the Labuan Square for the rites of acceptance.

# Labuan UMS is urged to set up O&G faculty

## Cheang Poh Hwa

LABUAN: University Malaysia Sabah Labuan International Campus (UMS-KAL) was on Saturday urged to set up new faculties related to the oil and gas industry and the island's status as an international business centre.

Labuan Corporation (LC) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Amir Onn Mustapha, said:

"Labuan O&G hub offers great opportunities for UMS-KAL to develop its School of Petroleum. With the presence of global players in the industry, potential students could gain invaluable hands-on experience."

He added that such a faculty would enhance Labuan as a centre of excellence in O&G and enable it to develop cutting-edge technologies in upstream and downstream activities.

Commenting on the call at a press conference on the occasion of the annual Town and Gown procession, UMS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, welcomed the proposal, saying the university's senate would study carefully and make a decision to be referred to the Ministry of Higher Education.

The Town and Gown procession was participated by 320 UMS top brass, academic staff and graduates.

Leading the march were the standard bearers of national, Labuan and university colours, accompanied by the Police Brass Band. The procession wound its way from Labuan library to Labuan Square.

The ceremony was symbolic of the acceptance of UMS-KAL as part of the local community. Senator Datuk Yunus Kurus and Amir received the university's officials led by the Vice-Chancellor and the students.

Later, UMS-KAL staff and student representatives were given mock keys by Amir, who represented LC Chief Executive Officer, Zainul Abidin Abdullah.

"Students of high calibre," Amir said, "must not only be concerned with academic success but also be involved in activities of the community they are in."

Amir was particularly pleased to note that UMS-KAL had extended its hand to schools in improving their academic performance.

"The involvement of UMS-KAL in such programmes has enriched and motivated school students to set their sights higher in their academic endeavours," he said.

He also urged UMS-KAL students to take part in the Borneo Games 2013 and BIMP-EAGA Sports Meet 2013.

The Vice-Chancellor also underlined the importance of the students to belong to the local community and expressed his appreciation to the local authorities and the people of the island.

The two major schools of UMS-KAL are International Business and Finance, and Informatic Science.

It has a student population of around 2,000, with 200 from abroad. It also offers off-campus courses leading to master's degree.