



Harun inspecting the reserve units.

IPTA Palapes commissioning at UMS for the first time next year

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has been picked to host the 32nd Public Institution of Higher Learning (IPTA) Reserve Officers Training Units (Palapes) commissioning ceremony for the first time next year.

The IPTA Palapes commissioning ceremony was held in Universiti Utara Malaysia this year, attracting more than 1,000 Palapes members from all public institutes of higher learning in the country.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Mohd Harun Abdullah, revealed this at the launching of the first UMS Uniformed Bodies Council at the UMS Chancellor Hall, here, Thursday.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Vice Chancellors Professors Emeritus Datuk Dr Kasim Md Mansur and Dr Ismail Ali, Professors Dr Shariff Abdul Kadir Omang Al-Haj, Dr Shahril Yusuf and UMS Registrar Datuk Abdullah Mohd Said.

"Therefore, the university would once again require the commitment of all uniformed bodies to ensure the success of the event," said Harun.

Six uniformed bodies - the Palapes army, navy and air force, Police Undergraduate Voluntary Corp (Suksis), Undergraduate Civil Service Defence (Sispa) and Fire and Rescue cadets - comprising more than 200 students, took part in the half-day event.

"Uniformed bodies are an important element in nurturing discipline among stu-

dents because participants need to obey orders and rules of the bodies they join. These bodies also are the best platform to producing leaders.

"It is an undeniable fact that majority of our country's leaders today used to be leaders in their respective uniformed bodies," said Harun.

Harun added that the launching of the event on Thursday is a sign of respect for uniformed bodies at the university and the impacts these bodies had on the moulding of discipline and self-esteem among UMS students.

"This event today is a sign of recognition of all the efforts and involvement of uniformed bodies in the university's pursuit of excellence while at the same time giving each of them a chance to showcase their own identities.

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind all participants to use the time given to you in order to expand your potentials in each field you have chosen. Do not perceive your involvement here just to fulfil the co-curriculum requirements, but take advantage of this platform to consider career prospects in the army, civil defence and fire and rescue," said Harun.

The day started with a march past by all participants followed by inspection of the reserves units by Harun. During the course of the day, spectators were entertained by various performances including warrior dance, stunt performances and sketches.