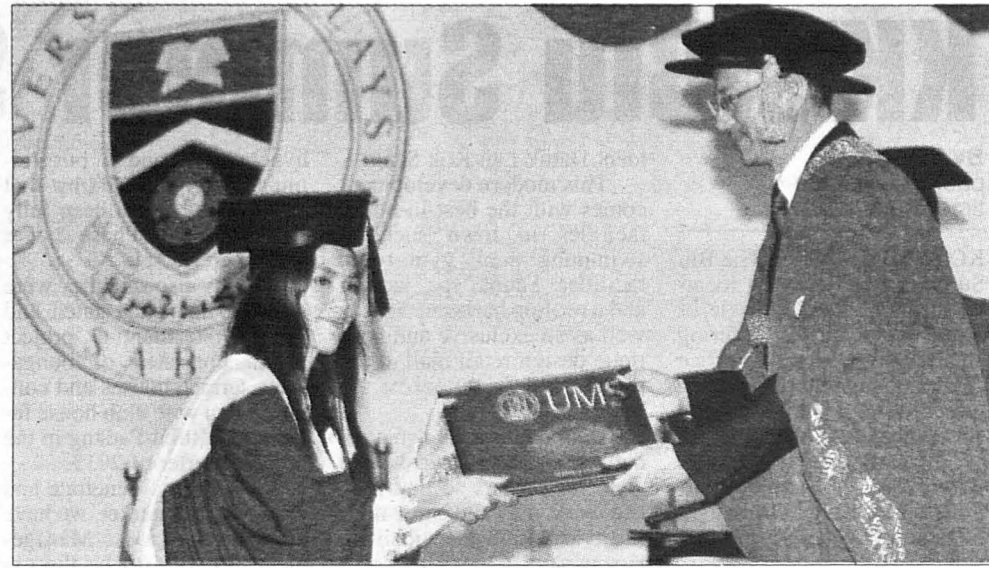




We did it...part of the graduates yesterday



Dr Harun (right) presenting the award to one of the graduates

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Proficiency in foreign languages, especially English, experience and ethics are among the vital criteria in the hiring of graduates.

Head of State Tun Juhar Haji Mahiruddin said as such, graduates must especially enhance their command of foreign languages so they could compete in the job market.

"Study has shown that these criteria are important," he said in his speech at the 14th Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) convocation here yesterday. Also present was UMS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

He added that mastering a language is the key to success and to ensure continued progress in this era of globalisation.

The Governor also said earning a degree was the first step towards achieving greater success in the future.

"Graduates must also be resilient. And apart from having acquired knowledge in certain fields, you must also have soft skills – being able to communicate in a diplomatic manner and to maintain the Malaysian culture," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Tun Juhar said multiple efforts including trans-

# Grads told of ethics and language importance

formation plans have been made by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to ensure that Malaysia would achieve a developed nation status by 2020.

He said the Government Transformation Plan (GTP) and Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) were both aimed to prepare the country to become a strong and high-income nation as well as to remain competitive at the global level.

He however felt that the efforts needed the support of highly-spirited and competent human capital.

"Therefore, UMS must come up with a human capital development framework to aid the government's endeavour to

produce a generation that is knowledgeable, capable and patriotic," he said.

This, he stressed, was important in the 21st century which was being faced with many challenges and uncertainties.

And Tun Juhar also said everyone in UMS including the lecturers and students must work together to help ensure the country's aspiration was achieved.

He said he was confident that the university under the leadership of the vice-chancellor was capable of playing a constructive role in the nation's transformation agenda.

Among the 4,336 graduates who received their scrolls yesterday were 24 PhD recipients.