

UMS welcomes 4,200 undergraduates



Noridah together with reporters at the event

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KOTA KINABALU: Over 4,200 first-year university students yesterday received a warm reception at University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) welcoming ceremony for undergraduates looking to embark on their new academic journey for the new semester 2015-2016.

In his keynote address, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman noted human capital development remained a core priority for the Sabah government in its efforts to further enhance and support higher education institutions to produce competent, qualified and skilled graduates to meet growing demand of industries and job markets.

"Malaysia has achieved immense success in efforts to democratise higher learning institutions and produced an increasing number of qualified, competent, skilled graduates to meet the ever-growing demand for trained workforce needed to spur economic growth," he said.

Underlining the State government's commitment towards enhancing the development of Sabah's

higher learning institutions, Musa highlighted the establishment of UMS shines the way forward in bringing rapid progress and excellence in various fields, including developing quality human capital.

"The establishment of UMS reinforces the State's development and continued progress while meeting the demands and expectations of student's social and economic wellbeing," he said and expressed his warmest welcome and cordial greetings to students who attended the ceremony at Chancellery Hall.

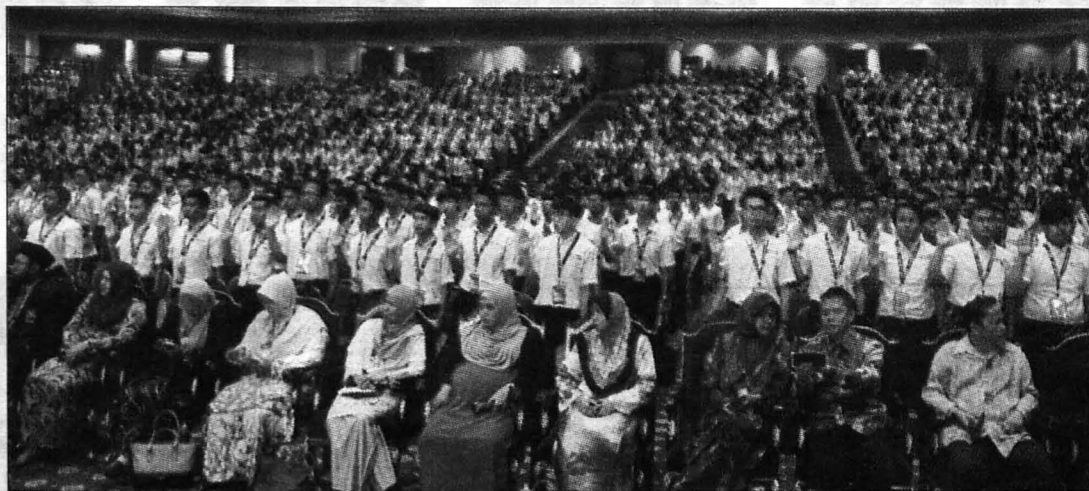
"I've noting but the warmest welcome and highest praise for students looking to start a new exciting, inspiring and enriching journey with UMS, which will provide developmental opportunities and experiences necessary for their career expectations," Musa said.

Additionally, he also called on students to take up every opportunity in developing themselves and focus towards achieving excellence in their studies while adhering to the university's laws and regulations.

"We also cordially welcome students coming to Sabah for the first-time, whereby you will expe-



Musa (fourth row centre left) together with Harun (third row centre right) and officials shares a moment with new UMS students for 2015-2016 semester at the Chancellery Hall yesterday



Newly-admitted UMS undergraduates reading the pledge during the university's official - welcoming ceremony yesterday

rience Sabah's vibrant multi-cultural harmony and solidarity even within campus and share the bond, accord, trust and friendship shared between people of different religions, ethnics and cultures," he said.

During his speech, vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Harun Abdullah extended his pleasure and welcome for newly-admitted students and assured UMS provides extensive developmental opportunities and expertise in various fields recognised nationally and globally.

"Your acceptance to UMS presents an invaluable opportunity to realise your dreams, aspirations and future endeav-

ours," he told students who attended the event and advised undergraduates to wisely balance their academic and co-curricular activities in order to become holistic and competitive graduates.

For Noridah Jailin, 20, enrolled in the Business Economics & Accountancy Faculty, acceptance into UMS presents a new life-changing opportunity to transform the condition of her family who worked as farmers at her village in Ranau.

"I hope my acceptance to UMS would change the future of my family who mostly relied on farming for a living and there's nothing impossible in life if we

desire to achieve success," she said, adding commitment and persistence is essential towards achieving goals.

Meanwhile, Mohd Syukri Bin Saimon, 20, who is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science & International Relations, expressed his happiness and appreciation for being accepted into UMS and highlighted his commitment to work hard to excel in his studies to help his family.

"It is my greatest hope to transform the condition of my family who live a difficult life as farmers in Kampung Libang Ulu, Tambunan," said Syukri, who is the oldest among seven siblings.