

UMS shine at SUKIPT

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah notched a notable improvement in their overall placing at this year's Malaysia Higher Learning Institutions Sports Carnival (SUKIPT) in Johor Bahru.

The third edition of the biennial games concluded yesterday with UMS securing a seventh spot finish among 104 competing contingents from all over the country.

They won six gold, five silver and 12 bronze medals to improve their 11th spot achievement at the previous games and 14th spot finish at the inaugural edition four years ago.

UMS bagged two gold medals in taekwondo and karate and one each in track and field and silat events.

UMS deputy vice chancellor (Student Affairs) Dr Ismail Ali congratulated the contingent on their successful outing.

"A seventh spot finish from 104 contingents including foreign institutions is a fantastic achievement. The fact that there were a large number of national athletes from UiTM, UPM, UM and Sunway University makes the achievement even sweeter," he said when contacted after the closing ceremony yesterday.

"Congratulations to all our athletes who won medals especially the gold medallists and everyone for their commitment



Dr Ismail (2nd right), Mary Yap (3rd right) and Higher Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Zaini Ujang with members of the UMS contingent at the closing ceremony of the 3rd Malaysia Higher Learning Institutions Sports Carnival (SUKIPT) in Johor Bahru yesterday.

and effort to train for these games. They sacrificed their study time and in the end it was all worth it. Well done again to everyone," he added.

Ismail also thanked UMS sports centre for planning and successfully lifting the university's student athletes at these games - the largest sporting platform in the country at this level.

"The centre did a great job in planning and preparing our athletes for these games and I hope the achievement we notched

this year would be maintained at the fourth edition in 2018," he said.

Towards this end, Ismail also thanked UMS vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah for supporting the athletes and officials and inspiring them to do their best.

"I believe it was his (Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun) constant emphasis on excellence, be it in academic or non-academic activities that helped to inspire all our athletes and officials to be the best that they can be," he said.

The closing ceremony was officiated by Johor Education Exco Mohd Jais Sarday. Also present was Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia Mary Yap Kian Ching.

A total of 25 sporting disciplines were contested in the games from January 25. It attracted a total of 6,243 athletes and 1,140 officials from 104 contingents comprising public universities, polytechnics, community colleges and teachers' institutions from all over the country including invitees from Asean region.