



Mohd Harun (third from left) having a brief chat with an undergraduate at the kiosk web self-check-in at Kolej Kediaman E.

UMS continues to see increase in new students

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) continued to see an increase in its new student intake, with a total of 4,579 undergraduates enrolling for the 2016/2017 session.

The number of students from Sabah also increased by 0.7 per cent, with 2,107 students this year compared to only 2,012 last year.

Out of the 4,579, a total of 1,927 and 377 are students from the peninsula and Sarawak, respectively, while 13 comprise students with disabilities.

The number of female students also remained higher, with 71 per cent, compared to only 29 per cent of male students.

"We also have a total of 168 international students from 12 countries, namely China, Brunei, Germany, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Jordan, Korea, Timor Leste and Vanuatu the latest," said its Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.

He said this during his visit to UMS' Kolej Kediaman E in conjunction with the six-day new student intake, "Minggu Suai Mesra", which began on Sunday.

"Some are here to study International Finance, economics or science and I can say that compared to previous years, the number of international students is increasing," he said, adding that the number last year was 138.

He said among factors that contributed to the increase in foreign students is UMS is now more visible at the international level.

"We are aggressive in promoting UMS at the international level, thanks to our cooperation with agents to promote and get more international students.

"We have gone to Fiji, Timor Leste and now our group is in Sri Lanka. Two weeks ago our team was in Pakistan and just last week we sent our team to Palembang to promote UMS," he said.

"The new student intake for UMS this year shows an encouraging increase compared to 4,481 recorded last year," said Mohd Harun.

The university, which started with only 205 undergraduates in its first intake since its establishment as the country's ninth public university in 1994, has now grown to be among universities to be reckoned with in the nation.

At the same time, UMS has continued to offer 100 places for eligible underprivileged students in the State through its corporate social responsibility.

This is the fourth time UMS has implemented its corporate social responsibility since it adopted the programme to assist students from poor families in 2013.

"Each year we have 100 students and for now we will maintain that figure because we also have to support them in terms of welfare," Harun explained.