

UMS brightens family's hopes

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KOTA KINABALU: Happy but nervous was how Ejieta Dona Thow described her feelings after being selected as one of 100 eligible underprivileged students of



Ejieta

Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) under its new student intake for the 2016/2017 session.

The 20-year-old Sino Dusun from Kg Lugu, Pitas, was elated to be enrolled as a Literature (Creative Arts) undergraduate.

"After completing Form Six, my teacher told us to go online and apply for university.

"I filled in the form but since my phone was not working, I asked my friend to help check my online application only to be told that it was not successful," she said.

"Then, I got a call from UMS who came to visit my house and was informed that I was among four other students in my school, SMK Pitas 2, who have been selected for the university's corporate social responsibility programme.

"Prior to that, I received a text message informing me of the offer. I was so happy and shocked that I cried when I received the good news," she said.



Imran (left) together with his mother Rohamina and cousin Eizaqeal.

Ejieta, the eldest of three siblings, has stayed with her grandparents who live on welfare assistance, since her parents who worked as farmers separated when she was a small child. "My family was so happy when they heard the news, my uncle gave me RM400 to buy essential items.

"My grandparents and mother accompanied me for the registration in UMS and I felt very nervous as we approached the university gates. I was nervous because I did not expect to be able to come this far.

"I have never been inside UMS and I am also afraid, afraid that I cannot succeed

but support from my family has given me the courage to move forward.

"This is a great opportunity not only for me but also for my family. We currently live in a house with no water and power supply, I want to use this three years to study hard and make a better life for my family," she said.

Universiti Malaysia Sabah has also won kudos from a 19-year-old foreign student, Imran Amin, from Lombok Island, Indonesia.

He is among the 168 international students who enrolled in the university's 2016/2017 new student intake.

"I want to be a good and knowledgeable geologist and I think UMS is among the best places to study geology," he said.

Like many first time visitors to Sabah, Imran, whose mother is a Malaysian from Johor and father an Indonesian, described Sabah as a very nice place with beautiful beaches and mountain scenery.

"It has always been my dream of coming here, being able to study in UMS is indeed a dream come true for me," he said.

He was accompanied by his mother and 11-year-old cousin, Eizaqeal Hakim Sazmal Effeadi, whose parents are UMS lecturers.

"He has been dreaming of coming here for a very long time and finally he has reached his dream and finally got to study here in UMS, so I feel really proud of him," said Eizaqeal.