

Rise in global recognition of our higher education

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KOTA KINABALU: There has been a significant spike in student enrolment and global recognition of local higher learning institutes in the last decade, said Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mary Yap.

She said the recognitions were given to publications, study results, patents and the institutes' quality.

"This achievement was attained thanks to the effort and innovation of the academic community in Malaysia, contributions from the private sector and the Government's huge investment," she said during a meet-and-greet session with Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) new students at the varsity's Chancellery Hall, here, Thursday.

According to her, the Ministry had received numerous feedback from various quarters after the drafting of the Malaysian Education Development Plan 2015-2025.

"We note that it is not easy to produce human capital according to our mould and at the same par with global standards. There are many challenges that we have to face.

"We are confident that university students will work together with us to materialise the nation's education plan to create quality human capital that will continue the country's progress."

She reiterated the Higher Education Ministry's commitment to improve the standards of higher education in the country.

"The 'Soaring Upwards' battle cry is



Mary shouts the 'Soaring Upwards' battle cry with Mohd Harun and the new students.

used to uplift the education fraternity's spirit to support the Ministry's effort."

Yap also commended UMS' students for its achievement in various fields such as sports and arts since its establishment in 1994.

"In terms of leadership, UMS is the only public university that had conducted an undergraduate parliament sitting at the State Legislative Assembly hall," she said.

She also reminded the new students to give total focus to their responsibility, which is to gain knowledge.

"If they are able to fulfil this responsibility, I am confident that they will become

UMS' best product in four to five years time which will also be the pride of the family, people and the country.

"Make use of all the opportunities provided to gain knowledge as well as to polish your talent to become a successful individual.

"In today's competitive global challenge, there is much new knowledge and skills that need to be mastered before they can enter the working environment.

"Towards this end, you have to strive to be the best as only the best will survive and thrive," she said.

Also present was UMS Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah.