



New students during the pledge ceremony officiated by CM Datuk Seri Musa Aman at Universiti Malaysia Sabah yesterday.

# 4,579 UMS students begin varsity life

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) welcomed 4,579 new students in its recent intake, which included disabled students, Zakwanulhakim Abdul Nasir, 22, and Ainur Athira Zulkefle, 20.

Zakwanulhakim who hails from Bagan Serai, Perak, walked with crutches after losing his left leg four years ago to Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) as he joined other students at the UMS Chancellor Hall for the new students pledge ceremony that was graced by Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman.

The Network Engineering student told reporters that he felt slightly apprehensive on moving to Sabah to further his studies at UMS as he would be far from

his family. "But I told myself to be positive and try first. I felt then that I can accomplish this," said the youngest child out of six siblings.

He added that he acquired his Diploma in Networking System from the Politeknik Ungku Omar in Ipoh, successfully garnering 3.14 CGPA.

He also said that this was the first time he set his foot on Sabah's soil and hoped to achieve his ambition and excel in his studies.

He added that although it was initially hard to get accustomed to his disability, he was able to be independent when studying for his diploma.

"I am used to being independent now," he said.

Meanwhile, Ainur from Johor was happy to be accepted to study

communication at UMS. She said that she wanted to study Special Education but was offered to study communication instead.

"But I still accepted the offer as I know that the field of communication has a wide scope," she said.

Ainur also shared that her right eye was totally blind and doctors attributed it to an infection prior to her birth.

However, she could see with her left eye.

One of the challenges she felt she would face was being far from her family and forced to become independent, she said.

"But I have made a resolution to be positive and believe I can adapt to the environment here," she said.